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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 137

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY JULY 10, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

CPA terminates RT&T's contract

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, by majority vote, has terminated Rota Terminal and Transfer's contract as Rota's sole stevedoring operator for its failure to cure three of the five violations previously cited by CPA back in April.

See CPA on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority held a special board meeting yesterday to address the termination of Rota Terminal and Transfer's contract for numerous violations.

DeLeon Guerrero: Govt overpaid Fund $25.6M

» Also keys on FEMA reimbursement, Tinian military buildup at Chamber meeting

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said the government paid $25.6 million beyond what was required to the Settlement Fund during last week's Saipan Chamber of

See FUND on Page 4

RACQUEL FLOYD

Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) delivers her presentation during the general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last July 3 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Over $150K worth of 'ice' found hidden in portable speaker

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas, Department of Finance Secretary Tracy Norita, Division of Customs and Biosecurity Director Jose Mafnas, and Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres during a press conference regarding the interception of over $150,000 worth of methamphetamine at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance's Division of Customs and Biosecurity intercepted over $150,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice" following a routine inspection at the Micronesia Air Cargo Services' warehouse at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The over 500 grams of "ice" was found hidden

See OVER on Page 4

Human skeletal remains found inside a cave

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Macaranas

The Department of Public Safety reports that human skeletal remains were found in a cave by Banzai Cliff last Sunday and despite initially thinking the remains were from World War II, the Historic Preservation Office determined that the bones found were post WWII and may have been buried there within the last 20 years.

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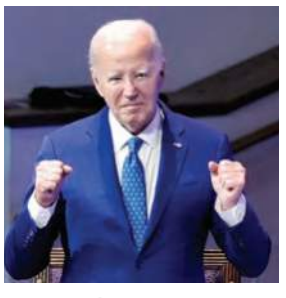
INSIDE



NATION

President Joe Biden stood firm Monday against calls for him to drop his reelection candidacy and called for an end to the intraparty drama that has torn apart Democrats since his dismal debate performance last month.

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WORLD

Israeli forces advanced deeper into the Gaza Strip's largest city in pursuit of militants who had regrouped there, sending thousands of Palestinians fleeing on Monday from an area ravaged in the early weeks of the nine-month-long war.

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LIFE & STYLE

Alec Baldwin 's role as a producer of the Western film "Rust" isn't relevant to the involuntary manslaughter trial over a fatal shooting on set, a New Mexico judge decided Monday.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

RACQUEL FLOYD

Rotary Club of Saipan officers for 2024-2025, from left, New Generation director Gregory Borja, president-elect Charles Cepeda, Vocational director Derek Cutting, vice president Brian Clayton, past president and Rotary Club International director Irene Holl, treasurer Glenn Perez, Club Service director Das Krishnan, sergeant-at-arms Curtis Dancoe, president Joann Aquino, special guest Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Foundation director Sean Ficke, double past president David M. Sablan, secretary Catherine Attao, and Community Service director William "Billy" Grow.

Rotary Club of Saipan welcomes new officers

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Rotary Club of Saipan installed its new officers for 2024-2025 last Saturday night at the Queens Hall of Kensington Hotel.

This year's theme was "The Magic of Rotary," and former club members and officers, along with members of the youth groups Rotaract and Interact, were present at the ceremony to welcome this year's new officers and board of directors.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Rotary Club of Saipan's president Joann Aquino delivers her speech.

Supreme Court Judge Perry Inos administered the oath of office for the 2024-2025 officers led by Joan Tajalle Aquino as new president, Charles V. Cepeda as president-elect, Bryan Clayton as vice president, Catherine Attao as secretary, and Glenn Perez as treasurer. Curtis Dancoe, Das Krishnan, William "Billy" Grow, and Sean Ficke remained sergeant-at arms, Club Service director, Community Service director, and Foundation director, respectively.

Derek Cutting is the new Vocational director, while Gregory Pat Borja still holds the New Generation position. Past president Irene Holl also became the Rotary Club of Saipan International director.

Following the call to order by Holl, and dinner, the program started at 7:30pm hosted by Cutting and Northern Marianas Miss Earth 2023 Jan Zowie Cruz.

Awards and recognitions were given with the assistance of Interact Club members to the following members: The Rotary Citation awardees were Greg Borja and Brian Clayton. The Perfect Attendance Award was given to Hiroko Stewart, Greg Borja, and Derek Cutting. The People of Action Awardees were John Arroyo, Curtis Dancoe, and Dr. Peter Gregor. Charles Cepeda received the End of Polio Award. Das Krishnan received the Paul Harris Award.

William "Billy" Grow received the Rotarian of the Year award.

"It feels good to be recognized, but I can only credit my success with the collaboration involved with all our Rotarians that our events and fundraisers have been successful. I'm honored to have won the award and look forward to continuing to serve the Rotary Club of Saipan's community goals and ambitions. I also want to thank my wife Bonny Grow for supporting me this Rotary Year because without her this award is not possible," said Grow.

In her outgoing president remarks before showing a short video summary of the year 2023 Rotary Club activities, Holl said, "So I always remember that this year that I have a very good set of officers and board ... that's why I am proud to say that it's a successful year for the Rotary because of a lot of help and good people supporting me."

New Rotary Club president Joann Aquino in her message about bridging islands and building hopes, said "As we look to the future, we must remember that our Rotary family extends beyond the shores of Saipan. Our brothers and sisters on Tinian and Rota are integral parts of our island community, and it's time we strengthen those bonds."

She expressed her excitement in announcing the new initiative in alignment with the vision of Rotary International Club president Stephanie Urchick and district governor Chie Ito.

"We aim to expand our fellowship and our reach by establishing satellite clubs on Tinian and Rota. This goal isn't just about growing our numbers, it's about amplifying our impact, and ensuring that the magic of Rotary touches every corner of our beautiful islands. This expansion aligns perfectly with Rotary's mission to unite people and take action to create lasting change. Together, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota can form a powerful triad of service, supporting each other, and lifting our community," she added.

The installation program was concluded with a raffle drawing, fellowship, and dancing.

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Vandalism of solar-powered lights curtail safety, sustainability efforts

Many in the community have been deeply troubled by recent acts of vandalism targeting solar-powered lighting installations on the island. These incidents have not only caused significant damage to public property but have also disrupted the CNMI's efforts to enhance safety and sustainability within our community.

Most recently, the Tanapag Beach Pavilion was vandalized: its inverters and deep-cell battery storage units were taken from the pavilion's rooftop, leaving the site without power and lighting. Solar lighting plays a crucial role in the community, offering sustainable and energy-efficient solutions that contribute to our environmental goals. Aside from cost-saving measures in utilities; the deliberate malicious targeting of these installations not only sets back efforts to move toward a cleaner environment but it also undermines the safety measures that these photovoltaic-powered lights provide.

These projects were funded through several sources including grant funding made possible by the Office of Insular Affairs, the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse, Division of Energy, and the CNMI Energy Task Force.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tanapag Beach Pavilion was vandalized recently with culprits stripping it off its inverters and deep-cell battery storage.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tanapag Beach Pavilion solar unit sans its inverters and deep-cell battery storage.

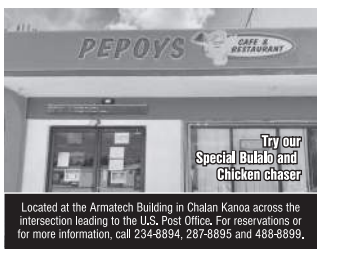
"This incident is among many unfortunate things we come across frequently," said Mike A. Cruz, director of the Division of Parks and Recreation. "The vandalism we find comes in many different forms and we never turn a blind eye to them." Cruz added, "We always notify the respective funding agencies and if we have the resources and capability, we often fix the deficiencies in our scope of duties ourselves. We do notify the representatives of the precinct to spread awareness and efforts to minimize damages in our parks and recreational facilities."

"We are deeply disappointed by these acts of vandalism. Securing funding and going through the long process of federal permitting is not an easy task. We have several more solar photovoltaic lighting projects across all three islands, but it's getting difficult to maintain these lights when they get vandalized, especially as additional funds would need to be identified for their repair," said OGM administrator Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr.

Cabrera further stated, that "these coastal pavilions should be lit at night and if they are not, then possible tampering might be the reason. OGM should be contacted if the units are not operational so proper repair can be scheduled. OGM can be reached at (670) 664-9994."

In a post on social media, Rep. Joel C. Camacho (Ind-Saipan) expressed, "Truly heartbreaking hearing that the batteries for the solar panel at the Tanapag pavilion was recently stolen." The vice speaker encouraged the Saipan community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity around solar lighting installations or other public amenities. Cooperation from the community is essential in safeguarding our shared resources and preserving the quality of life on Saipan."

If the community has any information regarding this matter, contact the CNMI Department of Public Safety and OGM. ***(PR)***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Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

CEDA Tinian office temporarily closes

The Commonwealth Economic Development Administration's Tinian office has temporarily closed starting from June 19, 2024, until further notice.

CEDA apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate the public's understanding and cooperation during this period.

For all inquiries and assistance, reach out to our Saipan Office at (670) 234-6245 or via email. CEDA's team will respond promptly to address your needs.

Administration:

■ Jude Palacios ext. 304 | j.palacios@deveolopcnmi.com

■ Christy Kintol ext. 310 | c.kintol@developcnmi.com

■ Espie Borja ext. 312 | e.borja@developcnmi.com

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■ Abby Atalig ext. ext. 309 | a.atalig@developcnmi.com

■ Marie Coleman ext. 307 | m.coleman@developcnmi.com

For payments, clients have the option to:

1. Make a Credit Card Payment over the phone.

2. Mail their check payment to Saipan office: PO Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950

3. Make payment deposit to Bank of Guam for credit to CEDA operations checking/ Account #0603-000260 (IMPORTANT: please indicate the loan account # and borrower's name on the deposit slip, e.g., 701224 Smith, John). ***(PR)***

FUND

From page 1

Commerce general membership at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

"...there's an overpayment of about $25.6 million from fiscal year 2018 to fiscal year 2020 that the CNMI government paid to the Settlement Fund, according to their alternative payment of a greater amount...So as we speak right now, we are talking to the Settlement Fund, at least my office and the secretary of Finance, to resolve this issue whether what is the state government going to do about that credit balance that is showing on the report right now."

The bottom portion of the table of her report showed that $17.6 million was paid in FY2020. "And that is for I believe FY18 if I'm not mistaken, or 2017. That was the APGA (Alternative Payment of Greater Amount) that was paid to the Settlement Fund."

The Settlement Fund's portfolio performance needs to be reviewed to provide breathing room for the central government, DeLeon Guerrero said as well.

"This is very interesting, why I look into this is because obviously, when the Fund program collapsed, and went into settlement, that there is a huge amount of money that is currently invested in the market and that particular portfolio, in my opinion, needs to be looked at. We can hopefully get together with the Settlement Fund trustee and have a conversation regarding the performances of that portfolio whether there's sufficient enough capital in there that could maybe provide some breathtaking room for the central government to address the financial crisis. I should see right now we're talking about the map which is a minimum annual payment and also the 70% requirement...and just for your information, the current budget right now, the revised budget was received on July 1, still coming in and voting at a ceiling of $158.6 million.

DeLeon Guerrero also discussed the CNMI's unemployment rate and reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, highlighted by the $24 million in cumulative reimbursements and $60 million in outstanding reimbursements.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

OVER

From page 1

inside a portable speaker.

Yesterday, Customs and Biosecurity director Jose Mafnas, with other members of the Drug Enforcement Taskforce, held a press conference to inform the public that about $155,000 worth of meth (or about 1.1 lbs) was intercepted last July 5 at the Micronesia Air Cargo Services' warehouse at the Saipan airport.

This time around, the drugs were found separated into six packages and were all packed into a portable speaker.

"Last July 5, at about 9am, customs officers were doing their routine cargo inspection at the Micronesia Air Cargo Services' warehouse at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport. During the inspection, they came across this package of a portable speaker and upon careful examination and x-ray of the package, it revealed anomalies inside. The officers proceeded to open the package up and discovered six packages of a crystal-like substance that later tested presumptive positive for Methamphetamine. The total weight was about 1.1 lbs and based off of the street value of meth (which is about $300 to $400 a gram) it's about $155,000 worth of meth. An arrest was made last July 8, during a controlled delivery operation. The case is now pending before the federal court," he said.

"We want the people to know that we are trying our best to stop these dangerous drugs from entering our islands," Mafnas added.

According to the affidavit in support of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant filed with the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday, Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force officer Raymond Renguul said the package was addressed to Li, Xuguang from Ruki Zhen and was shipped from Monterey Park, California.

"On July 5, while conducting a routine inspection of consolidated cargo for United Parcel Service at Micronesian Air Cargo Services at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan, CNMI Customs officers inspected a brown colored box addressed to Li from Zhen. Inside were three Beauty Yoyo brand short pants and one Burgani brand portable speaker. The box was subjected to x-ray examination at the airport and an anomaly was detected within the speaker. Customs officers opened the speaker and observed it was filled with aluminum foil. The box was then brought to the Customs 16 Contraband Enforcement Team (CET) office for further inspection. At CET, Customs Officers removed six aluminum foil wrappings, which, after being unwrapped, revealed six clear plastic packets containing a crystal-like substance. Field tests performed on the substances indicated the presence of methamphetamine. The total weight of the foil, clear plastic packets, the crystal-like substances was approximately 516.7 gross grams," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HUMAN

From page 1

Yesterday, DPS issued a press release reporting the discovery of human skeletal remains by Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

"At 1:14pm On Sunday July 7, DPS received a report of human skeletal remains that were discovered inside a cave by the Banzai Cliff in Marpi. Officers learned that a group of hikers were exploring inside a cave when they discovered human skeletal remains along with artifacts that appeared to be from World War II. Officers were also guided to another cave where additional human skeletal remains were discovered," said the press release.

Although initially thinking the remains dated back to WWII, HPO debunked the theory and confirmed the bones to be post WWII.

"The next day, July 8, personnel from the Historic Preservation Office did an examination of skeletal remains and determined that some of the bones were less than 20 years old and that were not remains that dated back to the war," said the press release.

In an interview with DPS Commissioner Anthony Macaranas, he said that detectives from the Criminal Investigation Bureau and Crime Scene Investigators are currently investigating the scene and DPS is unable to determine whether foul play is a factor.

"The remains belong to just one person. It has yet to be clarified how the bones were found but the bones were found intact as one single human remain. Unfortunately, we could not confirm the age or a timeline for the bones until Monday, July 8, when a member of the Historic Preservation Office came by and determined that the bones found were not World War II remains. The bones are less than 20 years old. Right now, CIB personnel are on scene conducting an investigation to determine the origin of the bones and possibly the crime that was committed," he said.

Macaranas added that DPS will be sending the bones off to a forensic anthropologist to get more information.

"We will be sending the bones off to a forensic anthropologist to determine the age and sex of the bones. This is the only information I can provide now until such time that I get a definitive response from my investigators as to what is the findings of their investigation.

Clerisse Dacumos named to dean's list at Oregon Institute of Technology

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon—Clerisse Llanah Dacumos has been named to the 2023-2024 Spring Term dean's list at Oregon Institute of Technology. Inclusion on the list requires a 3.30 to 3.69 grade-point average.

Dacumos

Dacumos is originally from Saipan and studies Dual Embed/ Software Eng Tech at Oregon Tech.

Founded in Klamath Falls in 1947, Oregon Institute of Technology is the premier polytechnic institution in Oregon. Offering bachelor's, master's, and a Doctor of Physical Therapy, Oregon Tech has exceptional programs in engineering, health technologies, business, technology, communication, and applied sciences. Our programs prepare students to be effective participants in their professional, public, and international communities through applied, relevant learning and professional practice. Oregon Tech has a residential campus in Klamath Falls; an urban, industry-focused Portland-Metro campus in Wilsonville; an online campus; and offers degrees at Boeing Seattle and at other sites. Visit www.oit.edu to learn more about Oregon Institute of Technology. ***(PR)***

CPA

From page 1

Following a heated exchange between board members, six of the seven CPA board members voted in favor of terminating RT&T's contract as Rota's sole stevedoring operator contract with one abstention.

Aside from members of the CPA, also present to witness the voting was Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), and members of the CNMI community.

During the special board meeting, CPA executive director Leo Tudela presented his recommendation to terminate RT&T's contract citing three violations from previous default notices that has not been corrected.

"A letter was sent out last July 8, confirming that there are three violations that have not been corrected. The most important one is that [RT&T] still doesn't have a business license, No. 1 there is still the issue of a broken crane that has been there for the past five years, and it remains an eyesore, and the last one is that there is still equipment that has not been taken care of. However, their insurance came out yesterday for fire and their warehouse. The last 28 years they've been operating like this, and we've been giving them multiple default notices. After reviewing, my recommendation is to terminate RT&T's contract," he said.

Tempers flared following Tudela's presentation as CPA board chair Joe Ayuyu wanted a swift decision-making process while other board members still had their concerns.

"Think about the people of the Marianas who are suffering," he said.

Board members Thomas Villagomez—citing due process rights—wanted a specific recommendation stating although he supports the termination (pursuant to Section 13 of the contract agreement which is RT&T's lack of a business license) he wants a clear recommendation on the record and not just a simple "yes" or "no" to termination.

"I'm willing to support this but not without guidance. There are five default notices that went out and it's saying that we have two critical violations that is not being addressed. I'm willing to support guidance to terminate the lease but [chair Ayuyu] has to understand that I'm not voting just because he tells me to vote. Let's be specific, what is the reason for termination. In fact, we can terminate the RT&T agreement based off any one of the violations. I just want to make sure we are doing this the right way, and that due process has been done, I want to support that, not just a simple 'yes' or 'no.' I'm supporting termination pursuant to Section 13," he said.

Meanwhile, board chair Ramon Tebuteb brought up questions about the tariff rate violations which sparked a heated debate between him and chair Ayuyu who claimed that the tariff violations were irrelevant at this point.

After a long back-and-forth exchange, Tebuteb decided to abstain from voting.

Vice chair Antonio Cabrera, for his part, calmly expressed that RT&T's contract must be terminated because their incompliance opens a door of liabilities for CPA.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

UOG to host 6-session healthy aging and cooking class in August

Adults of all ages are invited to a six-session wellness class focused on embracing aging and cooking healthy meals. Back by popular demand from its June session, the class combines the curriculum of the *Nihi ta Fanmama'tinas* (Let's Cook) and the Keys to Embracing Healthy Aging programs taught by University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach.

The classes will take place from 4pm to 7pm on Wednesdays and from 9am to noon on Saturdays from Aug. 7 to Aug. 24 in the Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Room 125B, on the UOG campus.

Led by extension associates Clarissa Barcinas and Elaine de Leon, each class will cover a cooking topic and a topic on healthy aging according to the following schedule:

■ **Wednesday, Aug. 7**
Cooking Theme: Let's Chesa!
Wellness Topic: Positive Attitude and Eating Smart

■ **Saturday, Aug. 10**
Cooking Theme: Let's Bake!
Wellness Topic: Physical Activity and Brain Activity

■ **Wednesday, Aug. 14**
Cooking Theme: Let's Make Soup and Salad!
Wellness Topic: Social Activity and Tuning into the Times

■ **Saturday, Aug. 17**
Cooking Theme: Let's Cook on a Budget
Wellness Topic: Practice Being Safe and Know Your Health Numbers

■ **Wednesday, Aug. 21**
Cooking Theme: Let's Cook Breakfast!
Wellness Topic: Stress Management and Financial Affairs

■ **Saturday, Aug. 24**
Cooking Theme: Let's Cook Local!
Wellness Topic: Sleep and Taking Time for You

Each session has a registration fee of $10, and participants must register for all six sessions. The fee includes workshop materials and food samples.

To register, contact Jane Mendiola or Clarissa S.N. Barcinas at (671) 735-2020/9 or email csnbarcinas@triton.uog.edu.

Stay informed about public workshops hosted by UOG Cooperative Extension & Outreach by subscribing to the email list at www.uog.edu/extension/#Subscribe. ***(PR)***

UOG

Workshop participants work together to prepare tofu kelaguen during the combined *Nihi ta Fanmama'tinas* (Let's Cook) and Keys to Embracing Healthy Aging workshop offered in June by the University of Guam extension nutrition team. The six-session workshop series will be offered for a second time starting on Aug. 7.

Bill earmarking $15M for Guam's wastewater infrastructure introduced

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Sen. Sabina Perez in partnership with Sen. Telo Taitague, Sen. Joanne Brown, Speaker Therese Terlaje, and Sen. Chris Barnett introduced Bill No. 322 -37 (LS), which appropriates $15 million to the Guam Waterworks Authority for the design and construction of wastewater infrastructure, with prioritization toward parental and decedent subdivisions over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer.

Perez

"The NGLA provides over 80% of the island's drinking water and is essential to our very survival. The need to protect it from irreparable harm is non-negotiable. In the wake of Bill 175, which has moved to the voting file, serious concerns have been raised about the potential increase in nitrate and PFAS contamination and the doubling of wastewater into our aquifer," Perez said. "It is extremely pertinent that we make other efforts to increase housing opportunities for our people, while simultaneously providing protections and mitigating the increasing contamination to the NGLA."

"Important questions remain unanswered regarding the proposed wastewater treatment under discussion in the legislature. A sewer system would better protect our aquifer while allowing for construction of homes on these properties. If we are determined to push forward with the development of northern Guam despite potential risks to our clean water, this legislation will be our saving grace from the half-baked initiatives our people will surely pay for. Not only will it protect our water, but it may also reduce contaminant levels, fostering growth and development. This legislation addresses our long-neglected infrastructure and is crucial for ensuring a safer, more promising future for our island," said Taitague.

"The allowance of increased septic systems over the NGLA is not the only or best option for affordable housing. Last week, debate was shut down on Bill 175, but the conversation on this issue must continue. Being blessed with this beautiful island comes with the responsibility to care for our environment, for our children and their children," said Barnett.

Passing Bill No. 322 -37 is a win-win that will address outdated infrastructure and ultimately support responsible housing development by expanding access to wastewater infrastructure that will protect the island's main natural source of clean drinking water and secure it for us and our future generations. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 08-2024

Opening date: June 24, 2024 **Closing date: July 12, 2024**

Location: SAIPAN	**SALARY**
Position(s): (1) ARFF Mechanic II (1) Executive/Board Secretary	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr) PL 17/1 to 17/12 ($15.85/hr to $27.12/hr)
Location: TINIAN	**SALARY**
Position(s): (4) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
Location: ROTA SEAPORT	**SALARY**
Position(s): (1) General Maintenance-II	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, July 12, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a regular meeting is being called on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in the ARFF Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS: Call to Order and Roll Call.
A. Adoption of Agenda
B. Adoption of Minutes: May 9, 2024, June 7, 2024, June 18, 2024 and June 20, 2024.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

V. AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE
1. Rota Terminal & Transfer
2. Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc. (Request for Exclusivity and Warehouse)
3. Seaport Facilities Committee Report

B. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
1. Supplemental Budget Requests:
   a. Tinian Airport Signage Project
   b. Tinian Airport Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL)
2. Board Sanctioning and Supplemental Budget Requests:
   a. Saipan Airport Tower Renovations Change Order No. 3
   b. Saipan Airport Tower Renovation CM Amendment No. 3
   c. Saipan Commuter Terminal Construction CM Amendment No. 1
3. Financial Affairs Committee Report (with Grants and Internal Audit Report)

C. AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE
1. Public Displays at CPA Facilities
2. Car Rental Concessions:
   a. Saipan CPA-RFP-004-24 Authority Concession Grant CRS-2024-01–06
   b. Tinian CPA-RFP-005-24 Authority Concession Grant CRT-2024-07–10
   c. Rota CPA-RFP-006-24 Authority Concession Grant CRR-2024-11–13
3. Airport Facilities Committee Report

D. PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
1. Amendment to Personnel Rules and Regulations
2. Comptroller Position
3. Austerity
4. Time and Attendance Presentation
5. Personnel Affairs Committee Report

VI. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION/LEGAL MATTERS
1. Executive Director's Report and Staff Presentations

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video conferencing is available via Zoom. ZOOM LINK: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

JOSE C. AYUYU
Chairman, Board of Directors

July 5, 2024

CANCELLED

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 137

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

FAFSA is a nightmare for homeless students. Why haven't we fixed it?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is an annual requirement that most college-bound and enrolled college students dread. But for homeless youth it can be a nightmare because the requirements don't take into consideration their unique circumstances. In some cases their applications have been invalidated because they lack a permanent address, don't have enough financial information from parents or cannot get approval to file independent of a parent.

Congress passed the FAFSA Simplification Act in 2020 because lawmakers recognized that the long, complicated form discouraged students and families from applying for financial aid, and many couldn't afford to attend college without it. The act was also supposed to remove many of the obstacles that homeless students face, but they continue to encounter difficulties. An estimated 1.5 million undergraduate and graduate students are homeless, according to federal data.

The 2023-24 FAFSA application was updated so that if a student indicates he or she is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, then the application automatically overrides the request for parent information and a home address, making the applicant file as independent of a parent, meaning they don't have to submit parental financial data and can become eligible for more financial assistance. But students are still required to have a valid mailing address to submit the form, so the applicant must find a place where they can reliably receive mail, regardless of circumstances.

Completing the FAFSA is one of the best predictors of whether a high school senior will go on to college, according to the National College Attainment Network. Students who complete the FAFSA are 84% more likely to enroll in higher education, and for low-income students, FAFSA completion had been associated with a 127% increase in college enrollment.

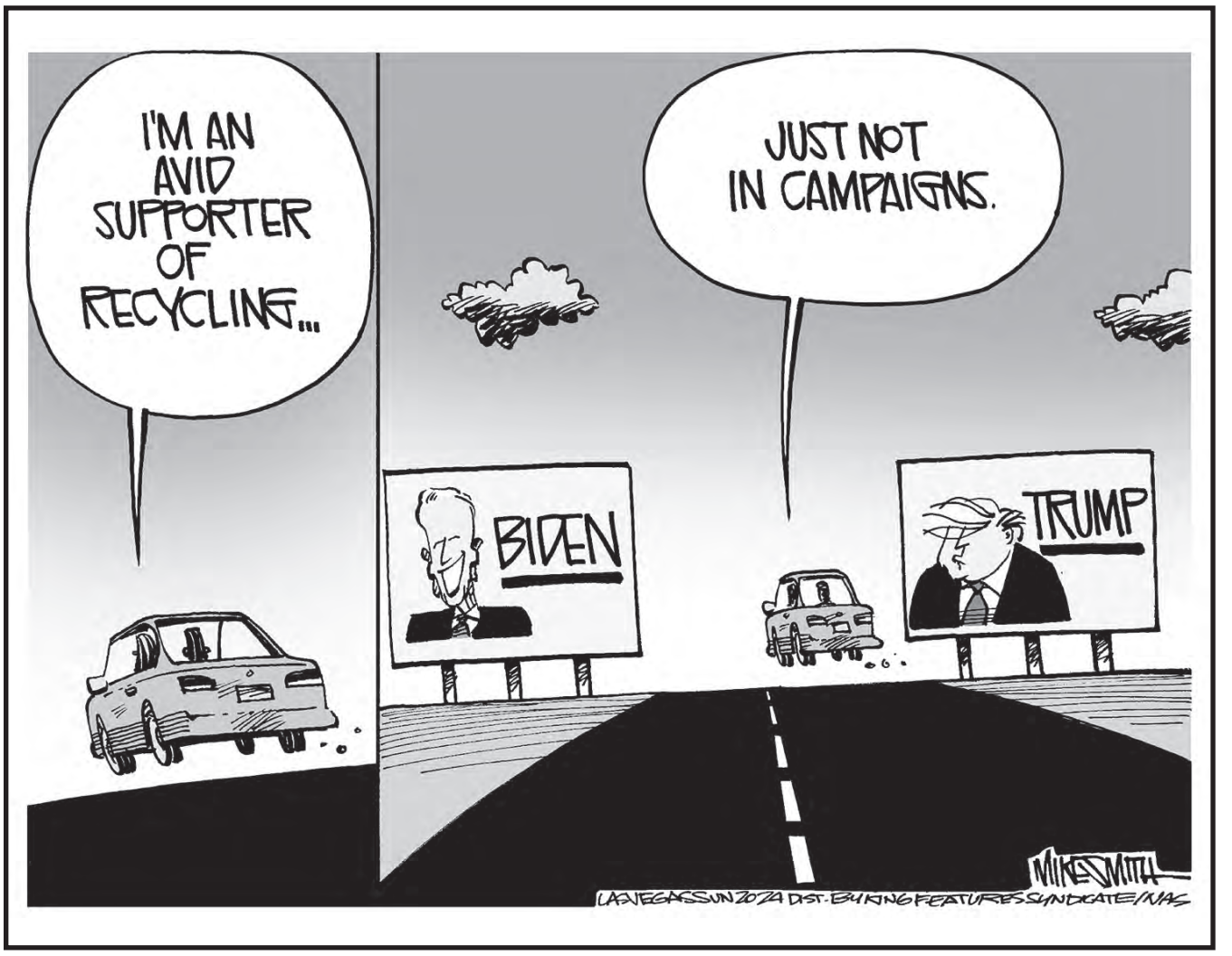
The application process is confusing for even housed students and their families. It's more difficult for students experiencing homelessness. They often need help from nonprofits, high school educators or friends and family just to get through it — and they may struggle to find the time, documentation and transportation to get that help.

After submitting their FAFSA, youth who are considered homeless then must file a Homeless Verification Form or have a qualified person write a letter to the college where they are enrolled to establish that they are indeed homeless. Then the school's financial aid office has to resubmit the FAFSA to the Department of Education in time. If it's late, the applicant's financial package can be voided or decreased.

Federal law requires that students verify their homelessness once a year, but some colleges and universities have required homeless students to reverify their status multiple times within one school year to keep their aid. That is another inequity placed onto these students.

In 2022-23, about 80,000 students indicated on FAFSA applications that they were homeless and independent of a parent, but only 45% were able to prove their homelessness.

See FAFSA on Page 7



Joe Biden revealed

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

It was a bright, happy moment for endlessly lambasted Republican Donald Trump who was alert and bursting with energy as he debated presidential issues with an angry, flub-afflicted, just barely present opponent, Joe Biden, and followed the rules of two excellent moderators.

Often said to be widely respected and having just completed seven days of instruction, Biden almost seemed to be fighting instead to be seen as demented, lost and just half-awake even though cheerleading associates later insisted his supposed youthful acuity was unafflicted by his irrelevant 81 years of life.

This likely Democratic nominee to be president was just suffering from a cold, they said, despite no sneezes, no coughs, no runny nose, just a raspy voice whose words often made no sense. In this 90-minute national TV appearance watched by 51 million Americans, Trump said it would be a democratic achievement to turn laws on abortion over to states responding to citizen majorities.

In his reply, Biden precisely said, "Look, there's so many young women who have been, including a young woman who just murdered and he went to the funeral. And the idea that she was murdered by a by by an immigrant coming in, too. They talk about that. But here's the deal. There's a lot of young women being raped by their by their in-laws, by their by by their spouses, brothers and sisters, by just it's just ridiculous. And they can do nothing about it. And they try to arrest them when they cross state lines."

It's possible here to see a hint of a real argument, but do you want a president sufficiently confused to talk like this on live TV to have special power in national policies? And, if your answer is oh, so what, consider Biden's lifelong history of lies, or of making it seem that Iran and its proxie Hamas should get away with anything. Biden did nothing to stop a Taliban assault as we deserted Afghanistan, allowing befuddled and hateful Afghan leadership to do little that was effective as starvation pursued a million children that winter and since then.

Biden's southern border laxity hasn't just killed Americans by the hundreds of thousands through fatal fentanyl poisoning but caused the deaths of illegal immigrants themselves on their desert treks. He addressed the issue in a proposed bill with all kinds of dangerous stuff part of the whole. He abused some 130,000 young migrants under 18 by allowing them into the country without their parents and then illegally put to work with educational costs. Some of the girls were forced into prostitution. New York Times revelations have led to more governmental attention to the issue but this has been worse than Biden's talk of Trump separating immigrant children from criminal parents. Meanwhile, some of our schools and hospitals have been crowded to the point of reduced functionality.

The great fear of Democrats right now is Biden's unnecessary spending causing runaway inflation that has slowed down a little, his freedom-reducing, regulatory enthusiasms, his national divisiveness, his tall tales and foreign policy failures that may inadvertently promote World War III on top of Cold War II already under way.

Many want a replacement, but who? Surely not his vice president whose inabilities were highlighted by her role as a border czar ignoring the border situation as it got worse and worse. The staffers in her office keep quitting because of abuse. Well, what about Gavin Newsom, the governor of California who is charming, good looking, articulate and incompetent?

For those paying close attention, as in watching Fox News video revelations or catching up on daily details, it has become forever clearer that Trump outshines Biden, and for those who are not tuned in to that degree we had the debate revelation, largely the work of CNN moderators Jake Tapper and Dana Bash. Proudly progressive Democratic enthusiasts and Donald Trump bashers, these biased journalists nevertheless let both him and their apparently preferred presidential candidate, Biden, do all the bitter yapping as they asked fair, balanced and meaningful questions without voicing judgments themselves.

Thanks to no moderator interference except some polite mentions of simple rules, the show was about two men wanting too often to lead the country either by misleading themselves or the public. Trump's fewer errors were at least backed up by an energetic, forceful, self-assured, relaxed performance, while Biden's fumbles were often directed by hysterically directed anger conveying nothing anyone could understand.

A CNN poll found that 67% of interviewed watchers felt that Trump won the debate with 33% as bewildered as Biden himself.

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Teaching your kids to swim this summer? Steer clear of floaties

By LISA M. ZARDA
Chicago Tribune

Lisa M. Zarda is executive director of the United States Swim School Association.

In the drowning prevention community, we dread hearing the other F-word: floaties. These seemingly innocuous devices give responsible parents a false sense of security with the assumption that the inflatables will keep their kids safe and help teach them to swim. But in practice, consistent floatie use increases the risks of accidental drowning.

With U.S. drowning deaths on the rise for the first time in decades, the silent contributor to America's childhood drowning crisis needs to be addressed.

Kids—and parents—love floaties because they allow children to enter and navigate the water without direct help. For evidence, consider the army of floatie-equipped toddlers fearlessly cannonballing into the deep end of their local pools, often despite not knowing how to swim.

The problems with this all-too-common summer scene are twofold.

First, floaties create a false sense of security for kids and their parents. Children who regularly use the floatation aids can fall under the dangerous illusion they know how to swim. Meanwhile, caregivers wrongly assume their children are safe and require less supervision.

Second, rather than floating horizontally, inflatable armbands place children in a vertical configuration known in the water-safety world as the "drowning position." To illustrate, let's revisit our cannonballing kiddo. After leaping into the pool, his head will dip briefly under water before popping back above the surface. He'll then use his legs to tread water, likely in a "climbing stairs" motion.

Remove the floaties from the equation, and this vertical orientation would quickly send him to the bottom of the pool. His corresponding leg movement would only speed up the process and prevent him from rising.

Together, the combination of false confidence and muscle memory can be catastrophic, if not fatal.

In some tragic cases, a child accustomed to using floaties will accidentally fall into a body of water and automatically assume their usual drowning position, without the know-how to swim their way to the surface. In others, an unsupervised child—confident in their ability to swim—will jump in a pool without floaties.

Anecdotal evidence suggests this overreliance on floaties is a meaningful factor in the childhood drowning crisis, which remains the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4. The dangers of floaties are pervasive enough to be common knowledge among swim instructors and drowning prevention advocates.

Like children, parents can't afford a false sense of security: Nine out of 10 drowning deaths occur when a caregiver is supervising but not paying attention. Drowning can happen quickly and quietly in a matter of seconds—about how long it takes to fire off a quick text message or skim the page of a magazine.

A May report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed an overall increase in U.S. drowning deaths after decades of decline, including an almost 30% rise among children ages 1 to 4.

The findings are a sobering reminder that we can—and must—do better for our kids.

What can parents do? Consider enrolling your young children in a lifesaving learn-to-swim program. The United States Swim School Association has an online directory available to find a school near you. Research has shown that formal swim lessons can result in an 88% reduction in drowning risk for children ages 1 to 4, according to the National Institutes of Health. While there's no "right" age to start, high-quality classes exist for babies, toddlers and children of all ages.

Vigilance is also crucial. Don't rely on lifeguards or assume someone else will spot a potential crisis. Instead, designate an adult "water watcher" to keep a close eye on your kids.

With the summer season kicking into full gear, water safety is more important than ever. Parents should ditch the floaties and teach their kids the swimming basics.

Neglecting Refaluwasch customs in land ownership

In the CNMI, our rights to land help protect and preserve our cultural identity. Our American system of laws gives rights to land ownership across the country, but in the CNMI, indigenous traditions and customs are also enshrined in law. These traditions are reflected in our constitution, covenant, and local laws. CNMI Probate law purposefully incorporated Chamorro and Refaluwasch culture and customs. Public Law 3-106 Section 4 states that a purpose of this law is to "realize the compelling interest of the Northern Mariana Islands in preserving the historic traditions and culture of its citizens of Northern Marianas descent."

Recently, the CNMI Supreme Court elected to depart from these culturally established and legally recognized customs. In a June 28, 2024 decision, they chose to observe Western principles of law and inheritance, rather than the well-recognized traditions of the native peoples.

In the case of the *Estate of Rita Rogolifoi v. the Estate of Silvestre Rogolifoi*, the land in question was owned by their father, Pedro Rogolifoi. Rita, and then her oldest daughter, claimed the land. This is fitting, as in Refaluwasch custom and culture, the eldest woman of the family will hold the land in trust for the entire family. It is unquestioned that she is the trusted custodian and administrator of the entire family estate. It is not assumed, presumed, or inferred in any way that she is the sole owner of the property. In 1944, a document written in English and purportedly signed with Rita's thumbprint, was filed, stating that Rita inherited the three lots from her father, Pedro in 1886, but does not have title papers for the land. In 1953, a title determination decision was issued with an undated statement by Dolores Saralu, Rita's eldest daughter and trustee. The title determination stated that due notice was given, however, there is no record of the form or manner of how the notice was made. According to the court's reasoning, anyone else who had a claim should have said something at that time. No one but

Rita's daughter did because she represented the entire family's interest in the property. Now, the Supreme Court has decided that only Rita's daughter and her heirs have ownership of the property because no one else spoke up. Any other member of the family and descendant of Pedro had no rights to the property whatsoever. This decision was based on the Western premise that the heirs and family of Silvestre Rogolifoi had been given their chance to file a claim within the 20-year statute of limitations through this notice. However, is it right to assume that in 1953, Refaluwasch would have had adequate and appropriate Western education and knowledge, and a fluency of English to understand that a posted notice equates to their potential loss of rights to family property? Should native peoples be forced to follow unknown and unrecognized policies?

Where is the justification of making a determination by solely focusing on the Western concept of this statute of limitations? In the Refaluwasch custom, this notion of a statute of limitations does not exist. If we are to acknowledge the application of a statute of limitations in a Refaluwasch land ownership dispute, how do you justify the English language notice to suffice when it is so extremely unlikely that the children of Silvestre Rogolifoi were literate in the English language in 1953? And, why, considering that it would be completely opposite of their customs and knowledge, would the children of Silvestre Rogolifoi question their aunt and her oldest daughter regarding the stewardship of the family lands?

CNMI P.L. 3-106, Chapter IX, Section 2 & 3 addresses Chamorro custom also referred to as "Ancestors' Land" and Sections 4 through 11 address Carolinian customs, also referred to as "Family Land," These sections enumerate in detail how both Chamorro and Refaluwasch culture and customs are to be applied when determining land ownership.

By ignoring traditional customs and the legal directive regulated in P.L. 3-106, the Supreme Court has set a dangerous precedent that does not uphold our traditions, customs, and culture. This will affect not only CNMI native peoples now, but all their descendents. This decision aids in the Western washing of our society and the eventual loss of our identity.

Although we have no choice but to adapt to Western society and fast-paced globalization; our cultures can in fact be incorporated, observed, perpetuated and, most importantly, respected. Our traditional customs of land ownership and custodianship are as important as language in preserving our culture and identity. The CNMI is in a unique and distinct position having the ability to craft our laws to protect our cultures and our future within a Westernized world. We can evolve without assimilating. But we can only do this if we stand up to Western entitlement and privilege.

We must always remember we are Refaluwasch and Chamorro and never allow that to be taken from us.

Melia Ki'ilani K. Johnson
Great, great granddaughter of Pedro Rogolifoi
Daughter of Maria Consolacion Rogolifoi Deleon Guerrero
Forever Refaluwasch & Chamorro

FAFSA

From page 6

According to Barbara Duffield, executive director at SchoolHouse Connection, the students who were unable to prove their status could have been grilled for additional information or mistakenly believed they were ineligible and gave up. Organizations that aid homeless youth believe that the actual number of homeless youth pursuing higher education is higher than what federal data show.

This year, for the first time, the 2024-25 FAFSA application allowed students who had verified their homelessness in the 2023-2024 application to keep their status as long as their situation had not changed. This was a big win for homeless youth advocates nationwide. But many organizations that help unhoused youth apply for financial aid were disappointed with the new application's rollout, which had significant technical issues that forced homeless students to wait until the glitches were fixed or to hunt down hard-to-find parent financial information.

There were many problems with this year's FAFSA application, including a launch that was three months late, delaying financial aid award notifications and making it difficult for students to decide where they could afford to attend college. The delay is especially scary for homeless students because it could lead to them not having aid in time for the upcoming school year.

It is shameful that the Department of Education has not been able to make the federal student aid application process smoother for homeless students, who already face significant hurdles in getting a college education. Before the next FAFSA, federal officials should work closely with organizations and homeless youth who have firsthand experience with the FAFSA and can help fix it.

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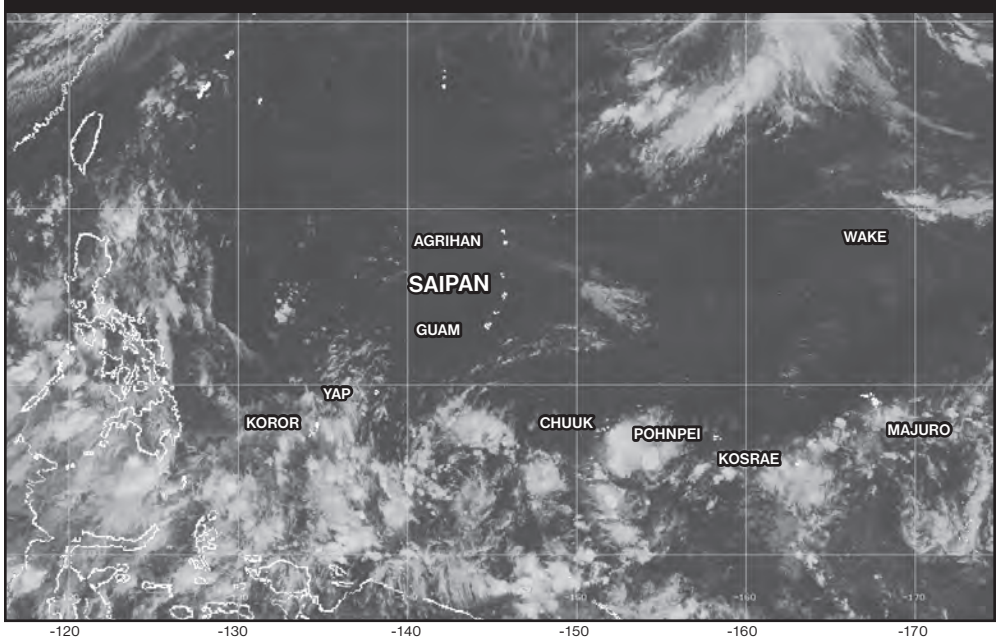
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. A slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. A slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87° / 79°	87° / 79°	87° / 76°	87° / 76°	87° / 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:34 AM TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Very little change in forecast philosophy for the Marianas overnight. The only substantial shift is based on a lead time analysis on infrared satellite imagery. This showed that the showers we had in for Wednesday could in fact arrive late tonight, so inserted after midnight wording into the forecast to reflect that. Otherwise no significant changes.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	90° / 81°
Palau	Cloudy	89° / 78°
Yap	Light Rain Shower	88° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:21 AM	10:05 PM	-
Thursday	10:08 AM	10:39 PM	-
Friday	10:53 AM	11:11 PM	-
Saturday	11:39 AM	11:44 PM	-
Sunday	12:25 PM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°
Beijing	Fair	92° / 77°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	91° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 67°
Manila	Fair	93° / 78°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Fair	88° / 75°
Osaka	Rain	79° / 73°
Paris	Showers	81° / 61°
Busan	Windy	73° / 66°
Rome	Sunny	88° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorm	89° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 56°
Seoul	Cloudy	79° / 72°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	96° / 80°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	95° / 79°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:59 AM	Low Tide	1.41
8:41 AM	High Tide	1.92
4:12 PM	Low Tide	0.04
11:25 PM	High Tide	1.96

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Nation

Biden gets support from key lawmakers

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden stood firm Monday against calls for him to drop his reelection candidacy and called for an end to the intraparty drama that has torn apart Democrats since his dismal debate performance last month, as key lawmakers expressed support for him to remain in the 2024 presidential race.

As anxious congressional Democrats returned to Washington weighing whether to work to revive his campaign or to try to edge him out, Biden sent them an open letter aiming to silence their skepticism of his fitness to lead the country for another four years.

» As he tells Democrats he won't step aside after debate

He insisted he wasn't leaving the race and stressed that the party has "one job," which is to defeat presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in November.

After a week of false starts, a coordinated effort by Biden and his campaign to shore up Democratic support appeared to be paying off, though he had by no means silenced his doubters. By late Monday, a sudden rush of public support from Democrats emerged — or at least some tempering of criticism—as Biden allies appeared to be trying to overpower the public and private voices calling on him to step aside.

AP
President Joe Biden attends a church service at Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ, Sunday, July 7, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Biden wrote in the two-page letter that "the question of how to move forward has been well-aired for over a week now. And it's time for it to end."

"We have 42 days to the Democratic Convention and 119 days to the general election," Biden said in the letter, distributed by his reelection campaign. "Any weakening of resolve or lack of clarity about the task ahead only helps Trump and hurts us. It's time to come together, move forward as a unified party, and defeat Donald Trump."

Biden followed up the letter with a phone interview with MSNBC's "Morning Joe" show, in which he insisted that "average Democrats" want him to stay in the race and said he was frustrated by the calls from party officials for him to step aside.

"They're big names, but I don't care what those big names think," Biden said.

He threw the gauntlet at his critics, saying if they're serious they ought to "announce for president, challenge me at the convention" or rally behind him against Trump. Later, Biden joined a call with members of his national finance committee, while first lady Jill Biden campaigned for her husband in a three-state swing focused on engaging veterans and military families.

"For all the talk out there about this race, Joe has made it clear that he's all in," she told a military crowd in Wilmington, North Carolina. "That's the decision that he's made, and just as he has always supported my career, I am all in, too."

Democratic voters are split on whether Biden should remain the Democratic Party's nominee for president, or whether there should be a different Democratic nominee, according to a New York Times/Siena College poll.

Trump returns to campaign trail with VP deadline nearing

MIAMI (AP)—Former President Donald Trump is getting back on the campaign trail Tuesday, rallying voters in his home state at his flagship golf resort in a celebratory mood as Democrats face tough calls over President Joe Biden's reelection chances.

Trump is nearing a deadline to announce his running mate but appears in no rush as much of the attention is still centered on questions about Biden's ability to govern for another four-year term. Some Democrats have started calling for Biden to step down as their presumptive nominee following his dismal debate performance last month.

Both Biden, 81, and Trump, 78, are at least two decades older than most American presidents have been, according to the Pew Research Center, which said the median age for all U.S. presidents on their first inauguration is 55 years old. But that has not stopped Trump from arguing he is stronger than Biden, who repeatedly stumbled, paused and could not complete sentences at times during the June 27 debate. Trump was criticized by Democrats for making false statements during the debate about the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol and suggesting immigrants entering the U.S. illegally were taking so-called "Black jobs" and "Hispanic jobs."

In an interview Monday with Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity, Trump said he thought Biden "might very well stay in" the race. "Nobody to wants to give that up that way," Trump added. "He is going to feel badly about himself for a long time. It's hard to give it up that way, the way where they're trying to force him out."

In the Miami suburb of Doral, Trump will underscore his strong support in a former battleground state that has now shifted toward the GOP. U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, a Miami native and one of the contenders for the vice presidential post, will be attending the rally along with other Florida politicians.

Kevin Cabrera, a Miami-Dade County commissioner who was Florida state director for Trump's 2020 reelection campaign and is set to speak at the rally, said to expect an "overwhelming show of unity."

"The rally will display our unified front, showcasing a stark contrast to the Democrats, who are lost and fighting with each other over Biden's health and ability to continue," Cabrera said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Economic Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147 | www.developcnmi.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS
2024-CEDA-08-IFB

CLOSING DATE: Friday, July 12, 2024 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"OFFICE SPACE FOR COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) IN ROTA"

A copy of the bid may be picked up at the CEDA Office at 2390 Beach Road Oleai, Unit 205, Saipan, or at CEDA Rota Office at the Tamara & 7 Brothers Bldg., Songsong Village during regular business hours (7:30 am to 4:30 pm) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. The bid may also be obtained on our website at www.developcnmi.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Procurement Services

VACANT Chairman | VACANT Vice Chairman | VACANT Secretary | VACANT Treasurer | VACANT Board Member

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Augiguan

PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-0504 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Friday, July 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room, San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of the Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    • Table
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS***
III. **OLD BUSINESS**
IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
  A. Election of Officers (New Appointed Members)
  B. Review and Approval of Spring 2024 Scholarships
  C. Discussion of Tinian Municipal Scholarship Funds
  D. Review of Policies and Procedures
V. **MISCELLANEOUS**
VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

ANTONIO SN. BORJA Chairman | JAMES M. MENDIOLA Vice Chairman | HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS Member | DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER Member | CHARLENE M. LIZAMA Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes
    1. June 18, 2024 – Regular Meeting
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]
III. **REPORTS**
  a. Chair's Report
  b. Executive Director's Report
IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino
V. **NEW BUSINESS**
  a. Ratification of Promotion Within
  b. Ratification of Hiring of Inspector
  c. Legal Counsel's Contract
  d. Office Lease Agreement – Binadu Realty
  e. ED Recommendation No. 2024-07
  f. ED Recommendation No. 2024-07 (e) - TCS John Huxley
VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]
VII. **OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**
VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-017	CDBG-DR Accountant (1-Position) Re-Announcement	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 Per annum	May 24, 2024	Until Filled
2024-019	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 Per annum	July 10, 2024	Until Filled

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP24-DCCA/CCDF-42400124

SUBMISSION DATE: August 02, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"CCDF System of Support for Home-Based Providers (License or License-Exempt)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Francisco M. Rabauliman
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

World

Israeli forces push deeper into Gaza City

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli forces advanced deeper into the Gaza Strip's largest city in pursuit of militants who had regrouped there, sending thousands of Palestinians fleeing on Monday from an area ravaged in the early weeks of the nine-month-long war.

Hamas warned that the latest raids and displacement in Gaza City could lead to the collapse of long-running negotiations over a cease-fire and hostage release, after the two sides had appeared to have narrowed the gaps in recent days.

Israeli troops were again battling militants in areas that the army said had been largely cleared months ago in northern Gaza. The military ordered evacuations ahead of the raids, but Palestinians said nowhere feels safe. Most of the population of 2.3 million has been displaced, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands are packed into sweltering tent camps.

Israel ordered the evacuation of northern Gaza in the first weeks of the war and has prevented most people from returning. But hundreds of thousands of Palestinians remain, living in shelters or the shells of homes.

"We fled in the darkness amid heavy strikes," said Sayeda Abdel-Baki, a mother of three who had sheltered with relatives in the Daraj neighborhood. "This is my fifth displacement."

» As Hamas warns that escalation threatens cease-fire talks

Residents reported artillery and tank fire, as well as airstrikes. Gaza's Health Ministry, with limited access to the north, did not immediately report casualties.

Israel issued additional evacuation orders for areas in other neighborhoods of central Gaza City. The military said it had intelligence showing that militants from Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group were in the area, and called on residents to head south to the city of Deir al-Balah.

Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civilians. In Shijaiyah, a Gaza City neighborhood that has seen weeks of fighting, the military said troops raided and destroyed schools and a clinic that had been converted into militant compounds.

The war has decimated large swaths of urban landscape and sparked a humanitarian catastrophe.

Obstacles to a deal

Israel and Hamas seem to be the closest they have been in months to agreeing to a cease-fire deal that would pause the fighting in exchange for the release of dozens of hostages captured by Hamas in the Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war.

CIA Director William Burns returned to the region Monday for talks in Cairo, according to Egypt's state-run Qahera TV, which is close to the security services. An Israeli delegation was also heading to the Egyptian capital, Israeli media reported.

But obstacles remain, even after Hamas agreed to relent on its key demand that Israel commit to ending the war as part of any agreement. A key part of that shift, officials told The Associated Press, is the level of destruction caused by Israel's rolling offensive.

Hamas still wants mediators to guarantee that negotiations conclude with a permanent cease-fire, according to two officials with knowledge of the talks. The current draft says the mediators—the United States, Qatar and Egypt—"will do their best" to ensure that negotiations lead to an agreement to wind down the war.

Israel has rejected any deal that would force it to end the war with Hamas intact—a condition Netanyahu reiterated Sunday.

AP

Israeli soldiers move near the Israeli-Gaza border, as seen from southern Israel, Monday, July 8, 2024.

China's Xi calls on world powers to help Russia, Ukraine resume direct dialogue

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping called on world powers to help Russia and Ukraine resume direct dialogue during a meeting Monday with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Orbán made a surprise visit to China after similar trips last week to Russia and Ukraine to discuss prospects for a peaceful settlement of more than the two-year war. Hungary assumed the rotating presidency of the European Union this month and Orbán has since embarked on a peace mission, which, however, lacks the endorsement of other European leaders.

"China is a key power in creating the conditions for peace in the Russia-Ukraine war," Orbán wrote on the social media platform X. "This is why I came to meet with President Xi in Beijing, just two months after his official visit to Budapest."

Orbán is widely seen as having the warmest relations with Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin among European leaders. His visit to Moscow last week drew condemnation from Kyiv and EU officials, who insisted Orbán was not acting on behalf of the whole European bloc.

Their rebuke failed to deter Orbán from extending a similar visit to Beijing, which he called "Peace mission 3.0" in a picture posted on X.

During his meeting with Xi, Orbán described China as a stabilizing force amid global turbulence and praised its "constructive and important" peace initiatives.

China has been promoting its own six-point peace plan, which it issued with Brazil in May. Beijing says it is neutral in the conflict, though in practice it supports Moscow through frequent state visits, growing trade and joint military drills.

While hosting Orbán, Xi called on Russia and Ukraine to cease fire and on other major powers to create an environment conducive to talks. Only when all major powers project "positive energy rather than negative energy" can a cease-fire occur, Xi said, according to CCTV.

Orbán hosted the Chinese leader in Hungary only two months ago as part of a three-country European tour that also included stops in France and Serbia, which unlike the other two is not a member of the EU or NATO.

During the trip, China upgraded its ties with Hungary to an "all-weather, comprehensive strategic partnership," one of its highest designations for foreign relations that in addition to Hungary applies only to Belarus, Pakistan and Venezuela.

Hungary under Orbán has built substantial political and economic ties with China. The European nation hosts a number of Chinese electric vehicle battery facilities, and in December it announced that Chinese EV manufacturing giant BYD will open its first European EV production factory in the south of the country.

The Hungarian prime minister broadly opposes Western military aid to Ukraine and has blocked, delayed or watered down EU efforts to assist Kyiv and impose sanctions on Moscow over its invasion. Orbán has long argued for a cessation of hostilities in Ukraine but without outlining what that might mean for the country's territorial integrity or future security.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia's heaviest bombardment of Kyiv in 4 months kills at least 31 and hits a children's hospital

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian missiles blasted cities across Ukraine on Monday, damaging the country's largest children's hospital and other buildings in a fierce assault that interrupted heart surgeries and forced young cancer patients to take their treatments outdoors. At least 31 people were killed, officials said. The daytime barrage targeted five Ukrainian cities with more than 40 missiles of different types, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media. Ukraine's air force said it intercepted 30 missiles. More than 150 people were wounded. It was Russia's heaviest bombardment of Kyiv in almost four months, hitting seven of the city's 10 districts. At least seven people were killed in the capital, including two staff members at the hospital. Strikes in Kryvyi Rih, Zelenskyy's birthplace in central Ukraine, killed 10. The attack on the Okhmatdyt children's hospital caused debris to fall into heart patients' open chests in the middle of surgery. Cancer patients had their beds wheeled into parks and onto the streets. "It is very important that the world should not be silent about it now and that everyone should see what Russia is and what it is doing," Zelenskyy said. Russia denied attacking the hospital and said the strikes hit military targets.

Cannabis advocates in Thailand protest a proposal to ban again its general use

BANGKOK (AP)—Two years after marijuana was decriminalized in Thailand, nearly a hundred of its advocates marched to the prime minister's office Monday to protest a possible ban on general use. A health ministry drug control committee approved Friday a proposal to relist cannabis as a narcotic to be only allowed for medical and research purposes. The proposition is set to be submitted to the Office of the Narcotics Control Board this week, and if agreed on, will take effect Jan.1. Cannabis activists and entrepreneurs, some carrying potted marijuana plants, gathered at the United Nations headquarters in central Bangkok Monday as they prepared to head to the Government House, nearly 1 kilometer (0.62 miles) away. Prasitchai Nunuan, a representative of a pro-cannabis network of individuals, addressed the protesters, saying that marijuana should be separately regulated by the health ministry instead of criminalizing the plant yet again. He accused the government of outlawing the drug to allow only a few interest groups to benefit from its medical uses. "This fight for cannabis is not only for medical security or people's rights but also for destroying the monopoly of politicians taking (its) benefits away from the people," he said.

Suspected rebels kill 5 Indian soldiers after ambushing their vehicle in Indian-controlled Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP)—Suspected rebels fighting against Indian rule in the disputed region of Kashmir ambushed an army vehicle on Monday in the region's south, killing five Indian soldiers and wounding other five, officials said. No insurgent group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The attack took place in the Kathua district of the Indian-controlled Kashmir while the military was on a routine patrol, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to reporters. Police and army reinforcements were rushed to the area, a massive cordon was set up and a search operation was underway, the officer said. The attacks was the latest in a flurry of violence that erupted on Sunday, when police said two gunbattles killed two Indian army soldiers and six suspected militants in the Kulgam district. Earlier in the day, militants fired at an army camp in the district of Rajouri, wounding a soldier.

Life & Style

OVER FATAL 2021 SET SHOOTING

Judge decides Baldwin's role as co-producer not relevant to trial

By MORGAN LEE
Associated Press

Alec Baldwin 's role as a producer of the Western film "Rust" isn't relevant to the involuntary manslaughter trial over a fatal shooting on set, a New Mexico judge decided Monday.

The move is a major setback for prosecutors just as trial was about to begin. They had planned to present evidence that showed how Baldwin bore a special responsibility—as co-producer, well beyond that of the actor holding the gun—for the dangerous environment that led to the deadly shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal.

"I'm having real difficulty with the state's position that they want to show that as a producer he didn't follow guidelines and therefore as an actor Mr. Baldwin did all of these things wrong that resulted in the death of Ms. Hutchins because as a producer he allowed these things to happen," Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer said. "I'm denying evidence of his status as a producer."

AP
Alec Baldwin wipes his eyes during a pretrial hearing, Monday, July 8, 2024, in Santa Fe, N.M. The actor's involuntary manslaughter trial starts July 9 with jury selection.

Special prosecutor Erlinda Ocampo Johnson argued unsuccessfully that Baldwin was "keenly aware" of his safety obligations as a producer, in an attempt to bolster an alternative theory of guilt beyond negligent use of a firearm. The prosecution has tried to link Baldwin's behavior on set to "total disregard or indifference for the safety of others."

In the courtroom Monday, Baldwin sat between lead attorneys Luke Nikas and Alex Spiro. He appeared to listen intently, taking occasional notes on a yellow legal pad and handing written messages to an attorney. Baldwin wore glasses and close-cropped hair.

The trial starts Tuesday with jury selection and is scheduled to last 10 days.

Last week, the judge cleared the way for crucial firearms experts for the prosecution to testify about Baldwin's handling of the revolver and whether the gun was functioning properly prior to the fatal shooting.

Alice Munro's daughter alleges sexual abuse by the late author's husband

TORONTO (AP)—The daughter of the late Nobel laureate Alice Munro has accused the author's second husband, Gerard Fremlin, of sexual abuse, writing that her mother remained with him because she "loved him too much" to leave.

Munro, who died in May at age 92, was one of the world's most celebrated and beloved writers and a source of ongoing pride for her native Canada, where a reckoning with the author's legacy is now concentrated.

Andrea Robin Skinner, Munro's daughter with her first husband, James Munro, wrote in an essay published in the Toronto Star that Fremlin sexually assaulted her in the mid-1970s—when she was 9—and continued to harass and abuse her until she became a teenager. Skinner, whose essay ran Sunday, wrote that in her 20s she told the author about Fremlin's abuse. Munro left her husband for a time, but eventually returned and was still with him when he died, in 2013.

AP
Canadian author Alice Munro is photographed during an interview in Victoria, B.C. Tuesday, Dec.10, 2013.

"She reacted exactly as I had feared she would, as if she had learned of an infidelity," Skinner wrote. "She said that she had been 'told too late,' she loved him too much, and that our misogynistic culture was to blame if I expected her to deny her own needs, sacrifice for her children and make up for the failings of men. She was adamant that whatever had happened was between me and my stepfather. It had nothing to do with her."

Skinner wrote that she became estranged from her mother and siblings as a result. Shortly after The New York Times' magazine published a 2004 story in which Munro gushed about Fremlin, Skinner decided to contact Ontario Provincial Police and provided them letters in which Fremlin had admitted abusing her, the Toronto Star reported in a companion news story also published Sunday. At 80, he pleaded guilty to one count of indecent assault and received a suspended sentence—one that was not widely reported for nearly two decades.

Paramount, Skydance merge, signaling end of family reign in Hollywood

NEW YORK (AP)—The entertainment giant Paramount will merge with Skydance, closing out a decades-long run by the Redstone family in Hollywood and injecting desperately needed cash into a legacy studio that has struggled to adapt to a shifting entertainment landscape.

It also signals the rise of a new power player, David Ellison, the founder of Skydance and son of billionaire Larry Ellison, the founder of the software company Oracle.

Shari Redstone's National Amusements has owned more than three-quarters of Paramount's Class A voting shares through the estate of her late father, Sumner Redstone. She had battled to maintain control of the company that owns CBS, which is behind blockbuster films such as "Top Gun" and "The Godfather."

Just weeks after turning down a similar agreement with Skydance, however, Redstone agreed to a deal on terms that had not changed much.

"Given the changes in the industry, we want to fortify Paramount for the future while ensuring that content remains king," said Redstone, who is chair of Paramount Global.

The new combined company is valued at around $28 billion. In connection with the proposed transaction, which is expected to close in September 2025 pending regulatory approval, a consortium led by the Ellison family and RedBird Capital will be investing $8 billion.

Skydance, based in Santa Monica, California, has helped produce some major Paramount hits in recent years, including Tom Cruise films like "Top Gun: Maverick" and installments of the "Mission Impossible" series.

Skydance was founded in 2010 by David Ellison and it quickly formed a production partnership with Paramount that same year. If the deal is approved, Ellison will become chairman and chief executive officer of what's being called New Paramount.

Woman's handsy male friends thumb their noses at fiance

DEAR ABBY: My fiancee has a number of male friends she has known for years. One of them stops off at her work, brings food and gifts, and may go out with her after hours. Another called her one evening and invited her out for drinks to celebrate his promotion.

At a recent party, another one had his hands on her back or shoulders whenever he spoke to her (she was wearing a silk blouse). Prior to that, she had left with him to go to the ATM holding his hand. At another party, I practically had to wrestle another "friend" away from her so I could sit next to her at dinner and later stand next to her for the group picture.

When I tell her I'm upset about this, especially that she is allowing it to go on, she tells me they have been friends for years and there is nothing sexual going on. (In fact, she says I'm the ONLY man she knows who thinks that way.) She says, "We're all just touchy-feely." Observing these goings-on, I don't see any of her other male or female friends touching anyone else like this.

I would never touch another woman who was in a committed relationship. She insists it's just me, and that if I say anything, she will be upset. So, here I sit, stewing, while her supposedly non-sexual friends paw at her and vie for her attention. Advice?

SEETHING IN NEW YORK

DEAR SEETHING: Yes. Your fiancee has made it plain that she doesn't plan to change. This is why you should stop seething and end the engagement. Unless you enjoy pain and anxiety, this isn't the girl for you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have one grandchild and another on the way. I have been struggling lately with all the rules and boundaries my children are placing on me. I realize that with the internet and the new parent courses, they are receiving more information than I ever did.

The latest issue is with my daughter who is due in a few months. We are very close, but suddenly she says I will need to shower and wear clean clothing before seeing her child. She's afraid of third-hand smoke. I am, unfortunately, a smoker.

I would never smoke around her baby. I don't even smoke in the house, but she has told me it's her rule. I have read everything about third-hand smoke and haven't found any statistics about the amount of exposure it would take to harm a baby.

I'm going to try to quit, but I think this is crazy. She hasn't said anything about cleaning products, food or anything else. Am I wrong in thinking this is over the top?

SAD SMOKER IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR SMOKER: As a longtime smoker, you are probably no longer aware of how unpleasant the smell of tobacco can be for nonsmokers. It clings to the smoker's hair, skin, clothing and surroundings. You are entitled to think whatever you wish, but as you stated, this is your daughter's rule, and if you are going to interact with that grandchild, you will have to respect it.

I truly hope you will be able to overcome your tobacco addiction and cuddle the baby. If you do, you will be doing all of you (including yourself) a favor.

■■■

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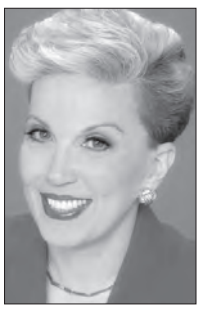
DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I GUESS IF WE GET TO HAVE SNACKS, IT WOULD BE OK TO TIME TRAVEL. IF THEY'RE GOOD SNACKS, I MEAN.
GREAT! PUT ON YOUR VORTEX GOGGLES.
THE DIAL IS SET FOR 140 MILLION YEARS AGO. SO OFF WE GOOO!
I HAVE A QUESTION. WHY DON'T WE GET YOUNGER AS WE GO BACK IN TIME, AND DISAPPEAR AS WE PASS THE DAY WE WERE BORN?
I'D EXPLAIN IT, BUT THERE'S A LOT OF MATH.
I THOUGHT YOU GOT A "D" IN MATH.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, BUDDY. BACK AGAIN?
SORRY. CAN'T LET YOU IN. GO FIND A NUT OR SOMETHING.
ALREADY FOUND ONE, BIG GUY.
MY DOC'S NUCLEAR COFFEE HALLUCINATIONS ARE GETTING SASSY.
MAYBE ONLY EIGHT CUPS TOMORROW.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THE EXTREME BURGER. EXTRA BACON, PLEASE.
IT ALREADY COMES WITH EXTRA BACON.
THEN EXTRA EXTRA BACON.
WE OFFER A BACON-BACON DELUXE BURGER.
I'LL TAKE THAT WITH EXTRA BACON.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Physician's nickname
4 LPs' successors
7 Metric weight
8 Sensational
10 Ivan of tennis
11 European peninsula
13 Queen Ramonda portrayer in "Black Panther"
16 Sticky stuff
17 Merits
18 Low digit
19 March Madness gp.
20 Bloke
21 Exams for future attys.
23 Profession
25 Scrooge cries
26 Debtors' notes
27 French Mrs.
28 Alberta resort town
30 Kanga's kid
33 Investor known as "The Oracle of Omaha"
36 Swimsuit brand
37 Gambling game
38 Wing
39 Continental coin
40 — Moines
41 Parched

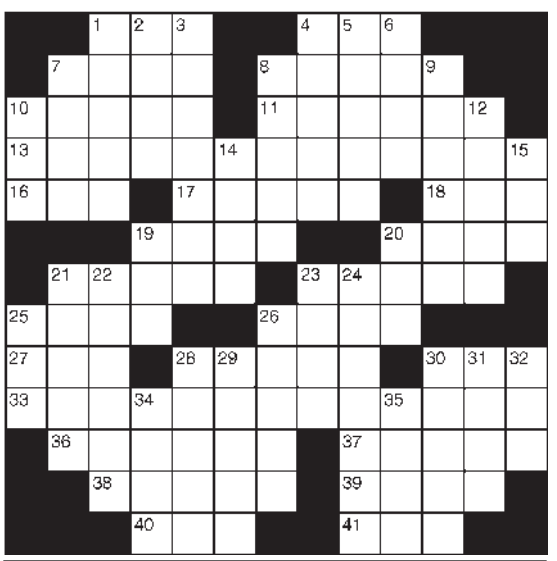
DOWN

1 Wild dog of Australia
2 Shoppe description
3 Amass
4 Havana native
5 Raiment
6 Old-style letter opener
7 Vegas game
8 Fall sign
9 Followed a "keto" plan
10 Trail the pack
12 Expiate
14 Very small batteries
15 Hanoi holiday
19 "Illmatic" rapper
20 Helium, for one
21 Tibetan monks
22 Everest guide
23 Bean curd
24 Like a frilly blouse, say
25 German auto
26 Office mail holder
28 Designer Geoffrey
29 Peaks of Peru
30 Hear again
31 "Beetle Bailey" pooch
32 Ear-related prefix
34 Tear
35 Tea time

Solution time: 23 mins.

E	N	O	S		P	C	A		I	E	S	T		
R	O	W	E		R	O	I		E	L	H	I		
M	U	I	R		A	N	D	E	R	S	O	N		
A	N	D	A	N	T	E		G	R	E	E	T		
			P	I	E		M	A	O					
C	A	R	E	T		A	N	D	R	O	I	D		
I	W	O			W	Y	O			O	R	O		
A	N	D	I	R	O	N		T	Y	P	E	S		
			M	A	N		S	A	O					
I	S	A	A	C		A	N	D	O	R	R	A		
A	N	D	R	E	T	T	I		H	E	E	L		
M	A	D	L		L	M	I		O	N	L	A		
S	P	A	I		A	S	S		O	D	D	S		

Yesterday's answer 7-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Simpson, 44; Adrian Grenier, 48; Sofia Vergara, 52; Arlo Guthrie, 77.

Happy Birthday: Keep your options open, but don't take on more than you can handle this year. Your reputation depends on quality rather than quantity. Precision, detail and innovation will yield the payback and acknowledgment you want and deserve. Dedicate more time to living within your means and structuring routines around your capabilities. Spotlight your attributes, and you'll discover opportunities that encourage prosperity and a better lifestyle. Your numbers are 7, 12, 24, 29, 34, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You must elaborate to accomplish your objective. Leave nothing unsaid or to chance. Don't jeopardize yourself physically or make promises you'll have difficulty fulfilling. Concentrate on expanding your skills and agenda to meet demands and obligations. Look for healthy alternatives, remedies and lifestyles. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't hesitate to say no. Someone will take advantage of you if you are too accommodating. Recap your agenda and focus on what you want to accomplish until you are happy with the results. Take responsibility for your actions, and deliver what you promise. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stick to the truth and keep your life free and clear of drama. Speak the truth and take care of domestic responsibilities to avoid situations that leave you in a precarious position. Keep the peace when dealing with loved ones. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Redirect your energy to meet demands. Whether work or play, you'll get high returns if you give your all. Don't hold back; spontaneity will lead to positive change. An unusual offer will have more substance than you expect. Ask direct questions and make decisions. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take responsibility for your happiness. Remember what's important to you and the path that will help you make your dreams come true. Sign up for something that will fill your head with ideas and introduce you to people who can illuminate the possibilities. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Taking control, paying attention to detail and living within your means will set a good example and help you gain support and respect from those who can help you get ahead and achieve financial security. Nurturing an unusual partnership will pay off. A lifestyle change will improve your profile. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Broaden your horizons. Research, educational pursuits, travel and spending time with people from different backgrounds will change your perspective and course of action. Use information to develop a game plan you can call your own instead of using someone else's prototype. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change will be revolutionary. Don't sit on the sidelines when you should engage in activities that allow you to shine, strut your stuff and make worthwhile connections. Don't be shy; embark on a new adventure and see where it leads. Self-improvement, travel and romance are favored. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Think for yourself. You will miss an opportunity if you let someone decide for you or dictate what you can do. An emotional partnership will fall short if you are the one who always makes concessions. Learn, express your thoughts and take responsibility for your happiness. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Changing your living arrangements will help redirect how you do things or encourage you to head in a new direction. Put your energy into setting a course that excites and empowers you to adapt your skills to manifest fruitfully and offer satisfying results. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't move prematurely. Look at the facts, test the logic and consider how to make your plans foolproof before you commit. Partnerships will require patience, communication and trust if you want to be successful. Uncertainty is a red flag. When in doubt, take a step back. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to what's doable. Refrain from letting anyone talk you into something you cannot afford or handle alone. Concentrate on personal growth, health and partnerships built on equality and trust. Surround yourself with supportive people; if someone wants too much, decline. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are systematic, proactive and secretive. You are sensitive and reactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	7						
	2	5		3	4		1	
	4			6	8			
	7			1			3	
							8	1
1	8	6	3	7			2	4
				4	3		6	
9			1		7	4		
5	3	4					7	2

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	1	3	8	5	2	4	9	6
5	4	9	6	7	3	1	2	8
2	8	6	4	9	1	5	7	3
8	7	5	3	1	9	2	6	4
6	9	4	7	2	8	3	5	1
3	2	1	5	6	4	7	8	9
9	3	7	1	8	5	6	4	2
1	6	2	9	4	7	8	3	5
4	5	8	2	3	6	9	1	7

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Difficulty: ★★ 7/9

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BEET SALAD **Solution: 10 letters**

A	L	U	G	U	R	A	R	O	M	A	T	I	C	O
B	P	I	C	K	L	E	D	F	U	S	I	O	N	L
A	I	P	E	P	I	T	A	S	D	E	C	I	D	I
L	S	R	E	G	S	I	D	E	S	S	O	T	E	V
A	T	O	N	T	H	Y	M	E	T	O	U	L	L	E
N	A	T	A	O	I	T	C	E	G	N	A	G	L	O
C	C	E	S	F	I	Z	X	N	A	K	R	R	I	I
E	H	I	U	U	H	T	I	R	U	E	E	A	R	L
D	I	N	M	E	U	H	A	N	E	T	S	T	G	S
E	O	B	M	R	S	D	D	N	G	S	S	E	S	T
T	S	E	E	E	I	E	S	I	I	A	A	D	U	O
S	Ⓐ	E	R	S	B	R	E	H	N	B	R	L	R	R
A	Ⓣ	F	H	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	M	L	T	R
O	Ⓔ	A	R	T	H	Y	T	S	E	Z	E	O	I	A
R	Ⓕ	A	R	R	O	D	E	L	B	M	U	R	C	C

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 7/10

Appetizing, Aromatic, Arugula, Balanced, Beef, Carrots, Chicken, Citrus, Combination, Crumbled, Diced, Dinner, Earthy, Farro, Feta, Fusion, Garlic, Grated, Greens, Grilled, Herbs, Kale, Nuts, Olive Oil, Pepitas, Pickled, Pistachios, Protein, Radish, Refreshing, Roasted, Salt, Side, Summer, Texture, Thyme, Tofu, Tossed, Tuna, Zesty

Yesterday's Answer: Checklist

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Keller pitches 8 innings for 10th win to lead Pirates over Mets

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Mitch Keller pitched eight innings for his 10th win of the season and Joshua Palacios' home run capped a five-run sixth inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the New York Mets 8-2 on Monday.

Keller (10-5) allowed two runs and seven hits in a 107-pitch outing while striking out six and walking none. He is the first Pirates pitcher to have double-digit victories before the All-Star break since Gerrit Cole in 2015 and Pittsburgh earned a split of the four-game series.

The performance came a day after Keller did not get selected to the All-Star Game. That decision rankled Pirates manager Derek Shelton.

AP

Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Mitch Keller delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets in Pittsburgh, Monday, July 8, 2024.

CARDINALS 6, NATIONALS 0

WASHINGTON (AP)—Paul Goldschmidt and Alec Burleson homered, Miles Mikolas pitched into the seventh inning and St. Louis beat the Washington.

Burleson drove in three runs for the Cardinals, who took three of four games in the series and have won six of eight overall. St. Louis is 33-18 since Mother's Day, good for second-best in the majors behind Cleveland (32-16).

Goldschmidt's 12th homer of the season came off left-hander Mitchell Parker in the fourth. The 36-year-old slugger has 352 career home runs, tying Ryan Braun and Ellis Burks for 96th place in big league history. He needs 11 hits to reach 2,000.

Burleson had a two-run single and his 14th homer. He hit .300 (9 for 30) with two home runs on the road trip.

TIGERS 1, GUARDIANS 0

DETROIT (AP)—Jake Rogers led off the eighth inning with a double and broke a scoreless tie on an error, helping Detroit outlast Cleveland.

Guardians shortstop Brayan Rocchio was charged with the error when Mark Canha's grounder got under his glove, allowing Rogers to score from third after advancing on Wenceel Perez's single.

Tyler Holton (4-1) picked up the win and Shelby Miller pitched the ninth for his first save of the season, combining for 2 2/3 perfect innings.

Detroit rookie right-hander Keider Montero didn't give up a run in 6 1/3 innings and allowed just three hits and one walk.

REDS 6, ROCKIES 0

CINCINNATI (AP)—Rece Hinds homered and doubled in his major league debut, Andrew Abbott pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and Cincinnati beat Colorado.

All-Star shortstop Elly De La Cruz had an RBI double and scored twice. He also stole two bases in the first inning, giving him 45 this season to pass Billy Hamilton for the most in Reds history before the All-Star break.

Hinds was called up earlier in the day from Triple-A Louisville, where he was hitting .216 with 13 homers and 126 strikeouts in 77 games. He was retired on a diving stop by shortstop Ezequiel Tovar in his first at-bat, then doubled in the fifth and launched a 449-foot homer against Tyler Kinley leading off the eighth.

Hinds also made a sliding catch in right field.

Abbott (9-6) retired his first nine batters with five strikeouts, setting the tone for an outstanding outing. He struck out eight and walked two.

RANGERS 9, ANGELS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Corey Seager extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a 457-foot, two-run homer, Nathaniel Lowe had three hits and Texas' offense remained hot in a victory Los Angeles.

Wyatt Langford also went deep as the Rangers had 12 hits to extend their winning streak to four games. The defending World Series champions tied a season high on Sunday with 19 hits in a 13-2 victory over Tampa Bay.

Texas trailed 3-2 before breaking it open with a five-run fourth inning, including an RBI single by Lowe that gave the Rangers the lead.

Anthony Rendon had an RBI single in the seventh after being activated off the injured list before the game for the Angels, who have dropped seven of eight. The oft-injured third baseman missed 68 games due to a left hamstring strain.

Texas right-hander Jon Gray (4-4) allowed three runs in five-plus innings for his first road win this season.

TWINS 8, WHITE SOX 6, 11 INNINGS

CHIGAGO (AP)—Brooks Lee and Manuel Margot drove in runs in the 11th inning and the Minnesota topped Chicago.

Lee's second RBI single of the game scored automatic runner Max Kepler. Byron Buxton raced home from third on Margot's soft groundout, and the Twins won their third straight and improved to 8-0 against the major league-worst White Sox this season.

Jhoan Duran (5-3) pitched a hitless 10th for the win. Kody Funderburk, the seventh Twins reliever, worked a perfect inning for his first career save.

Jared Shuster (1-2) allowed both runs in the 11th and took the loss as Chicago fell a season-worst 41 games below .500 (26-67).

Chicago's Nicky Lopez looped a double in the eighth for his second hit and RBI of the game, tying it at 6.

BRAVES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 4, 11 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP)—Sean Murphy hit a tying homer with two outs in the ninth inning and Marcell Ozuna drove in the decisive run with a sacrifice fly in the 11th as Atlanta rallied past Arizona for their third straight victory.

Matt Olson led off the 11th with an infield single, moving automatic runner Austin Riley to third. Riley scored on Ozuna's sac fly for a 5-4 lead.

Murphy tied it 3-all with a two-run shot off closer Paul Sewald that easily cleared the right-center fence. Sewald retired the first two batters in the ninth before Eddie Rosario singled.

Rosario was called up from Triple-A Gwinnett earlier in the day. The veteran outfielder recently signed with the Braves after being released by the Nationals. He was batting .183 with seven homers for Washington this season.

It was Sewald's third consecutive blown save after converting his first 11 opportunities this season.

Guardians own No. 1 pick in upcoming MLB draft

CLEVELAND (AP)—Top of the AL Central. Top of the MLB draft.

It's been a season of firsts for Cleveland.

Along with opening a surprising lead in their division with a strong three-plus months under rookie manager Stephen Vogt, the Guardians have the No. 1 overall pick in next week's draft. It's a selection that has the potential to alter the franchise's trajectory for years to come.

As long as they make the correct one.

No pressure.

"We look at this as an extraordinary and exciting opportunity for us," said Chris Antonetti, the team's president of baseball operations. "Often times when you're thinking about your first pick, you're trying to guess who's going to be off the board before you get an opportunity to select.

"This year we don't have to guess."

This year's draft will begin on July 14 in Arlington, Texas with the event serving as a leadoff into All-Star festivities.

Cleveland has never picked first (the team has chosen second five times) and the chance to acquire a talented player who could quicken the team's pursuit of its first World Series title since 1948 is both exhilarating and terrifying.

Antonetti, though, isn't sweating it.

With only a 2% chance of landing the top pick, the Guardians had it fall in their lap when they won the draft lottery at the winter meetings in December. That moment of good fortune was followed by the club's unexpected surge in 2024.

It's a good time to be in Cleveland.

Along with his usual duties of managing the roster, scouring the transaction wire and weighing the team's options before the trade deadline, Antonetti has been immersed in the draft process as he and the club's personnel and scouting departments brainstorm.

They've had meeting after meeting after meeting. A plan has been hatched.

"First and foremost, the thing we are trying to solve for organizationally is use the resources and draft capital we have available to us to bring in the most talented group possible," Antonetti said. "That's really what we're solving for and we think when we look up at the end of the draft, we'll feel good about the group of players we bring into the organization."

While there's no consensus top pick, there are some great choices.

The Guardians have narrowed the talent pool to just a few possibilities at No. 1 with Oregon State second baseman Travis Bazzana, Georgia outfielder/third baseman Charlie Condon and West Virginia middle infielder JJ Wetherholt believed to be the frontrunners.

The Australian-born Bazzana has all the tools. He hits with power to all fields, possesses speed on the bases and makes every defensive play.

The 21-year-old may be the most major-league ready, and from Cleveland's standpoint, it helps that he's coming from the same program that produced Guardians All-Star outfielder Steven Kwan (MLB's current leading hitter) and Orioles catcher Adley Rutschman, the No. 1 pick in 2019.

The 6-foot-6 Condon fits the profile of what the Guardians have been seeking for years: an athletic power hitter they could plug in at first or a corner outfield spot. Condon won the Golden Spikes Award this season after leading the nation in average (.433), homers (37), slugging (1.009) and OPS (1.565).

Wetherholt led the country in hitting a year ago with a .449 average. He was slowed by a hamstring injury to start this season and missed 24 games. But the 21-year-old still put up solid numbers to keep his name in the mix.

An argument could be made for any of the three — even a few others.

As is almost always the case, money will shape the Guardians' decision.

Cleveland will have a record $18.3 million bonus pool to spend on 21 picks, with $10.5 million as the assigned slot value for the first pick. The team can use the money as it wishes but can't exceed the bonus pool or face penalties.

It's a much more complicated system than used by the NFL or NBA and will require some financial strategy, something Antonetti, general manager Mike Chernoff and their staffs usually excel at.

Last year, the Pittsburgh Pirates had a $9.7 million slot value on the top pick and selected LSU's Paul Skenes, who got a $9.2 million signing bonus, a record that could be eclipsed by the Guardians' pick.

It would be hard to imagine Cleveland's selection having the same impact as Skenes, who Sunday was named an All-Star just eight weeks after his debut.

Vogt, who joked that he was taken No. 1—"in the 12th round'—knows there will be massive expectations on the top pick. It comes with the territory.

"The outside pressure can get to you at the end of the day," he said. "The way I look at it is you earned yourself to be the best player in the country. The No. 1 overall pick, you did that. Now it's just go play baseball. So much of that pressure comes from the media, comes from the outside, but in the baseball world it's no, dude, you earned that money.

"You earned that right to be the No. 1 pick. Just go be yourself and play and continue to develop and get better just like the rest of the people going to go to the minor leagues. And it's easier said than done, but that's the way I view it."

Flagg takes advantage of opportunity to play against Team USA

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A 3-pointer over Anthony Davis, swish. A baseline turnaround over Jrue Holiday, easy. An acrobatic putback after crashing the boards and getting fouled by Bam Adebayo, no problem.

Those are three of the best defenders in the NBA.

Cooper Flagg is 17 years old. He held his own against them all.

The story of practice for the U.S. Olympic basketball team on Monday was Flagg, who hasn't even played his first college game yet. The Duke freshman—part of the select team that was invited to work out against the Olympic squad during their training camp and widely believed to be in the mix as the No. 1 pick in next year's draft—looked totally at ease going against some of the NBA's biggest names.

"The opportunity, it was great," Flagg said. "It was a blessing to be here. I think just the physicality, and just the level of where I want to get to, there's a lot to get better at, a lot where I need to keep improving. This showed just how big the details are."

He will surely get better. That might be a scary concept.

"He kicked butt here," U.S. select team coach Jamahl Mosley of the Orlando Magic said. "There's a respect factor for what he's done. People who have not seen him play, as he gets himself going within the game, they quickly see what he can do."

AP

East forward Cooper Flagg dunks on a fast break during the third quarter of the McDonald's All American boys' basketball game Tuesday, April 2, 2024, in Houston.

The select team is typically made up of young NBA players, brought in to scrimmage the national team and help them prepare for either World Cup or Olympic competition. Flagg was the first college player asked to be part of the select team since Doug McDermott and Marcus Smart were asked to join a mini-camp in 2013.

But those situations weren't anywhere near the same as Flagg being part of this camp. McDermott had played 110 college games for Creighton at that point and was a two-time consensus All-American. Smart was coming off a freshman season when he won Big 12 rookie of the year and player of the year honors at Oklahoma State. They were already proven.

Flagg has zero college points. He still proved plenty in this camp.

"He wants it," U.S. guard Devin Booker said. "I know this experience, he's going to take with him and move forward."

In Monday's scrimmage—the Olympic team beat the select team 74-73—Flagg was in the middle of everything down the stretch and looked perfectly comfortable. And when it was over, there were plenty of pictures with everyone; the select team's final day in camp was Monday, though some may be invited to stick around to continue assisting the Olympic squad.

"To be able to do what he did, not even playing a college game, let alone an NBA game, there's no fear," select team forward Jaime Jaquez Jr. of the Miami Heat said. "It's relentless. And the thing that you can tell about him is that he just has a knack and the will to win. He doesn't need the ball. He just finds a way to it. And the ball finds its way to him. That's something that you can't teach. He's just got a great feel for the game."

Flagg is a 6-foot-9 forward from Newport, Maine, but played his last three years of high school basketball at Montverde Academy in Florida. He chose Duke over Connecticut, was USA Basketball's male athlete of the year in 2022 after leading the Americans to gold at the U17 World Cup, and was the Gatorade National Player of the Year, Naismith Player of the Year and a McDonald's All-American in his final high school season.

"I was shocked, I was surprised, and I was really excited for this opportunity," Flagg said. "And I'm just really blessed that I was able to come out and capitalize on it and show what I have. I was really grateful to come out and learn. That was the biggest thing for me, just being able to learn and grow, to share a gym with all of these great, great names. Legends. So, I'm just truly blessed."

Trading Mikal Bridges to Knicks sends Nets into rebuild

NEW YORK (AP)—When the Brooklyn Nets made their first deal with the local rival New York Knicks in four decades, they traded away their best all-around player in Mikal Bridges.

Bridges was the key piece the Nets acquired when they sent Kevin Durant to Phoenix in 2023, and his brilliant play down the stretch got them into the playoffs that spring.

No key player came back this time. The trade with the Knicks was all about the haul of draft picks the Nets could accumulate for future success.

So, the Nets are heading into a rebuild, but general manager Sean Marks doesn't think it will be a lengthy one.

"This build, do I think it's going to take time? I mean, I think we'll be strategic in it," Marks said Monday.

"But I do think being in this market, with this amount of draft assets, we've done it before. And so again, I think, not that it's going to be expedited by any means, but I don't think it's a long process, either."

The trade was agreed upon just before the NBA draft last month and completed Saturday. The Nets received the Knicks' first-round picks in 2025, 2027, 2029 and 2031, the right to swap first-round picks in 2028, a first-round pick from Milwaukee next year and a second-round pick in 2025.

Four picks in the first round of what's expected to be a strong 2025 class looks nice on the draft board, but it's probably not going to look pretty on the court or in the standings until then. Especially considering the Nets were thinking about multiple championships when Durant, Kyrie Irving and James Harden were in Brooklyn just three years ago.

"I think you have to look yourself in the mirror as an organization and sort of say what's the best path for us moving forward here, and how do we do this and how do we have that sustainable success that we want," Marks said. "So when you're able to (add) that amount of draft assets over the course of the last year, I think that's going to help us in our trajectory long term."

Bridges averaged 26.1 points from the time the Nets got him at the 2023 deadline through the rest of that season, but that slipped to 19.6 in 2023-24 as the Nets went to 32-50 and missed the postseason. But Marks said the trade wasn't about Bridges' performance and denied speculation that the swingman asked to be dealt.

"I think it's been reported that Mikal wanted to leave or requested a trade. That could not be further from the truth," Marks said. "That's just not in Mikal's character. That's not who he is and that definitely did not happen. He was told by me when I called him and let him know that we're at the 2-yard line."

The trade—the first between the teams since 1983—allows Bridges to join former Villanova teammates Jalen Brunson, Josh Hart and Donte DiVincenzo with the Knicks and could make New York a contender in the Eastern Conference. A few miles away, the Nets could be one of the worst teams in the NBA in new coach Jordi Fernandez's first season.

Marks said he told Fernandez during negotiations that moving Bridges and building through the draft was a path the Nets could pursue, and was up front with Nic Claxton before re-signing the center.

The Nets couldn't offer Marks good draft assets when he was hired in 2016, having dealt them to Boston in the 2013 blockbuster that brought Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce to Brooklyn. That trade put the Celtics in position to draft Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum to start the core of the team that won this year's NBA title.

Now the Nets will have draft picks and cap space. They just no longer have a talent anywhere near the level of Bridges.

"It's a difficult decision, because Mikal was the focal point or this organization for the last year since we did the trade," Marks said. "So, not an easy decision, but at the same time when you have an offer like we did from New York, I think that sets us up on a very, very clear direction and pathway to continue to build this team to sustainable success and that's the ultimate goal here."

Pelicans add veteran center Daniel Theis, source says

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The New Orleans Pelicans and veteran NBA center Daniel Theis have agreed to terms on a one-year contract, a person familiar with the agreement said.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because the agreement has not been announced.

New Orleans' acquisition of the 32-year-old Theis comes after the Pelicans traded away their top two centers from last season: Jonas Valanciunas and Larry Nance Jr.

Valanciunas was dealt to Washington and Nance was included in a trade with Atlanta that brought point guard Dejounte Murray to New Orleans.

The Pelicans selected 6-foot-11 center Yves Missi 21st overall out of Baylor in last month's NBA draft, but he is expected to begin his career in a reserve role.

The 6-foot-8 Theis played in 59 games with three starts for the Los Angeles Clippers last season, averaging 6.3 points and 4.1 rebounds. Theis began last season with Indiana, but played in only one game for the Pacers before they bought out his contract.

Theis, who is German, began his NBA career with Boston in 2017. The Celtics traded him to Chicago during the 2020-21 season and he spent part of the following season with the Houston Rockets.

Theis has 151 career starts, but just four during the past two seasons.

Taylor Fritz beats Alexander Zverev at Wimbledon

LONDON (AP)—After Taylor Fritz deposited a backhand that Alexander Zverev didn't even chase, wrapping up the American's comeback from a two-set hole in Wimbledon's fourth round Monday, the men met at the net for what turned into a longer-than-usual chat.

Zverev, playing with a bone bruise in his right knee, said he was bothered by some of the cheering coming from Fritz's guest box in the fifth set. When Fritz began to move away, Zverev stuck his chest to block the path and continued the mostly one-sided exchange.

It wasn't the 13th-seeded Fritz's only noteworthy postmatch interaction at the All England Club this fortnight—he told an earlier opponent to "have a nice flight home" — but he shrugged this one off, more interested in thinking about the way he turned things around to defeat two-time Grand Slam finalist Zverev 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-3 and reach the quarterfinals.

AP
Taylor Fritz of the United States celebrates after defeating Alexander Zverev of Germany in their fourth round match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Monday, July 8, 2024.

"It was amazing," said Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, "to do that on Centre Court (at) Wimbledon, two sets down."

Zverev said later that his issue wasn't with Fritz or his two coaches, but rather with others in the winner's support group "that are not maybe from the tennis world, that are not maybe (used to) watching every single match; they were a bit over the top."

"He's totally allowed to be annoyed if they were being annoying. ... That's one of the things I asked him at the net, 'Who was it?'" said Fritz, who next meets 25th-seeded Lorenzo Musetti, a first-time Slam quarterfinalist. "It's not a big thing. It's all good."

The implication from Zverev was that there was no need for the entourage to be acting quite so excited when his knee, which was covered by a gray sleeve after a fall in the previous round, was such a significant factor in Monday's outcome.

"I was playing on one leg," Zverev said. "It was fairly obvious that I wasn't 100% today, right? I wasn't moving, really, the entire match. I wasn't running for drop shots. If I was running for a drop shot, I was limping there more than running."

DOVE

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led to multiple points. Cheng's newfound momentum then carried him to the crucial third set win after faltering in the second and solidifying his spot in the next round.

Other top seeds started the tourney off strong as women's No. 3 seed, Chinese Taipei's Sih Yun Lin, put her best foot forward against Japan's Momoka Kimura, 21-13, 21-17.

Women's No. 5 Akari Kurihara made light work of the NMI's Genelyn Lansangan, 21-3, 21-5; women's No. 6 seed Riko Gunji of Japan defeated Yu-Hsuan Lee, 21-12, 21-15; and No. 7 Ching Ping Huang won over Yun-Shan Hsieh, 21-12, 21-14.

At press time, not all matches are finished.

Aryamann Tandon defeated Chen Jia Chu, 21-17, 21-17; So Yul Choi beat Mihane Endo 21-13, 21-7; Sakura Masuki beat Xin Yi Lee, 21-12, 21-13; and Ryoma Muramoto beat Cheng-Han Tsai in three tough sets 23-21, 23-21, 14-21.

Then, Airi Oku won over the NMI's Lina Tsukagoshi, 21-7, 21-4; Chang Min Wu edged Sam Yuan, 21-14, 21-18; and Yu-Chi Yang went in three sets, 21-15, 19-21, 21-15.

Shaunna Li bested Zih Ling Huang, 21-17, 21-14; Yen-Chen Ting toughed it out in three sets against Eogene Ewe, 21-16, 15-21, 21-16; and Yi Liu made light work of the NMI's Andreau Galvez, 21-8, 21-10.

More NMI badminton players have yet to share the courts with international players from 15 other countries.

The tourney will run until Saturday, July 13.

FIJI

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breaker, losing 4-6, 6-3, 10-5

The girls 12's suffered their first loss of the tournament when they went down to a strong Tahiti team 1-2 also last Monday. Stella Choi, playing in the first position, lost 6-4, 6-1. Right after that, Emma Lang evened things up, 1-1 with a hard fought 6-7, 6-3, 10-5 win. They settled for fourth place overall after their match today.

Even with the losses, Race said the team did well.

"There is always very tough competition here. These are the best players from each region of Pacific Oceania. All of them had to qualify to play here just as we did. Similar to last year I feel like our juniors still need to improve on the mental side of the game. That and they just need to practice more," he said. He added that the lack of facilities on Saipan to train on is also a disadvantage to NMI netters.

"With only three public tennis courts available in the afternoon and evening time during the week our kids are at a serious disadvantage in comparison to almost all of the most successful teams here. We just don't have comparable facilities available to us," he said.

For Colin Ramsey, who supervised the 12's boys and girls teams, he said, "Our 12s boys had a tough route in the pool play, suffering a few close defeats that could have gone either way. Those definitely had an effect on their confidence coming into their placement match that they also lost, placing them last in the tournament. They make a decent team and I was definitely surprised by the end result, but sometimes the losses are the best learning experiences."

As for the girls' team, he said that they were seeded second in the tourney. Stella was seeded first, Lang was second, and Selina Chi was third. "They took charge and beat the three other teams in their pool, but lost in the semifinals and again in the tie for third place, landing them in 4th place," said Ramsey.

Ramsey said that tears were shed by the team as they knew they could have performed better in a few pressure situations. Even with that, he said, "I'm very proud of the confidence they showed in their matches. They definitely learned lots from their experience and will be back next year for the No. 1 spot. Stella and Emma have one more year in the 12U division so they have a great chance to sweep the tournament next year."

As for the boys, he said, "None of the boys will be in the 12U category next year so I think the difficulty this year will be fielding a team to compete. I doubt we will be making an appearance in the boys 12s finals for a few years."

LAMARC

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Masaharu also has the most triples at two, while Alfred Manglona, Ben Lizama, Derrence Diaz, Eli Aughenbaugh, Jonah Flores, Cabrera, Kaipo Dikito, Niko Martin, Saralu, Tenorio Jr., Tonchu Norita, and Travis Malwebug hit one each.

Camacho has the most doubles at six; Harry Nakamura, and J.P Sablan are tied at three; and eight other players are tied with two each.

Saralu leads with the most RBIs at 11; Camacho and Tenorio Jr. have nine each; Byron Kaipat, Aughenbaugh, Masaharu, and Tony Tenorio gathered eight each; and Ed Manibusan, Darion Jones, and Franco Nakamura have seven each.

The only homers were made by Ben Flores, Dennis Cabrera, Aughenbaugh, Jesus Iguel, and Tony Tenorio with one each.

Sixty feet away on the bump, K.J. Villagomez is the current pitching leader with a zero earned run average; zero earned runs; and nine hits from three games and 16 innings pitched for a 3-0 record.

Jonathan Norita also has a 0.00 ERA from two games and eight innings pitched; 0 ER; two hits; and one win; A.J. Evangelista mirrors the 0 ERA from one game and seven innings pitched; 0 ER; three hits; and one win. Then, Arby Yaguel rounds off pitchers with 0 ERAs and 0 ERs. He also has one win in three games and seven innings pitched.

The strikeout king is Benji Palacios with 27; Aaron Camacho and Jose Lizama Jr. have 23 each; Jason Reyes and Villagomez are at 22 each; Jylon Sablan has 20 strikeouts; Gloyd Martin Jr. and Jeffrey Lizama struck 18 batters out; R.J. Riungel collected 17; Jonathan Norita and Shane Mallens recorded 14 each; and J.J. Takawo, L.J. Teigita, and Mike Iguel struck out 11 each.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
MLB STANDINGS
AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	57	33	.633	–
New York	55	37	.598	3
Boston	49	40	.551	7½
Tampa Bay	44	46	.489	13
Toronto	41	49	.456	16
Central Division				
Cleveland	56	33	.629	–
Minnesota	52	39	.571	5
Kansas City	49	43	.533	8½
Detroit	43	48	.473	14
Chicago	26	67	.280	32
West Division				
Seattle	49	43	.533	–
Houston	46	44	.511	2
Texas	43	48	.473	5½
Los Angeles	37	53	.411	11
Oakland	34	58	.370	15

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	58	32	.644	–
Atlanta	50	39	.562	7½
New York	44	45	.494	13½
Washington	42	49	.462	16½
Miami	32	58	.356	26
Central Division				
Milwaukee	53	38	.582	–
St. Louis	48	42	.533	4½
Pittsburgh	43	47	.478	9½
Cincinnati	43	48	.473	10
Chicago	42	49	.462	11
West Division				
Los Angeles	55	36	.604	–
San Diego	49	45	.521	7½
Arizona	45	46	.495	10
San Francisco	44	47	.484	11
Colorado	32	59	.352	23

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
SBL STANDINGS

	W	L		
Falcons	7	0		
Cardinals	7	2		
Padres	5	1		
Braves	5	2		
Sandlot	5	2		
Bandits	4	2		
Blue Jays	3	4		
Royals	3	4		
Bears	3	5		
D-9er's	2	5		
White Sox	2	5		
Natives	0	6		
Blue Shark	0	8		

BATTING LEADER
(Based on 16 or more times at-bats)

	Batting Average
Lamarc Iguel	.588
Frankie Lieto	.563
Marvin Ngeskebei	.563
Nokki Saralu	.520
Franco Nakamura	.476
Angelo Igitol	.429
Larsen Sibetang	.412
Jerald Cabrera	.406
Derek Sasamoto	.400
Dennis Cabrera	.391

Runs scored: (19) Poland Masaharu (18) Brian Camacho (17) Jerald Cabrera, Nokki Saralu
(16) Lamarc Iguel (12) Pat Tenorio Jr.

Doubles: (6) Brian Camacho (3) Harry Nakamura, J.P Sablan (2) 8-players tie

Triples: (2) Poland Masahary (1) Alfred Manglona, Ben Lizama, Derrence Diaz, Eli Aughenbaugh, Flores Jonah, Jerald Cabrera, Kaipo Dikito, Niko Martin, Nokki Saralu, Pat Tenorio Jr., Tonchu Norita, Travis Malwebug,

Homeruns: (1) Ben Flores, Dennis Cabrera, Eli Aughenbaugh, Jesus Iguel, Tony Tenorio

RBIs: (11) Nokki Saralu (9) Brian Camacho, Patrick Tenorio (8) Byron Kaipat, Eli Aughenbaugh, Poland Masaharu, Tony Tenorio (7) Ed Manibusan, Darion Jones, Franco Nakamura

PITCHING LEADERS
(Based on 7 or more innings pitched)

	ERA
K.J Villagomez	0.00
Jonathan Norita	0.00
A.J Evangelista	0.00
Arby Yaguel	0.00
Jason Reyes	0.47
Jose DlGuerrero	0.63
Jylon Sablan	0.70
Benji Palacios	0.73
Gino DLCruz	1.00
Jose Lizama Jr.	1.09

Strikeouts: (27) Benji Palacios (23) Aaron Camacho, Jose Lizama Jr. (22) Jason Reyes, K.J Villagomez (20) Jylon Sablan (18) Gloyd Martin Jr., Jeffrey Lizama (17) R.J Riungel (14) Jonathan Norita, Shane Mallens (11) J.J Takawo, I.J Teigita, Mike Iguel.

Keller pitches 8 innings for 10th win to lead Pirates over Mets

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Taylor Fritz beats Alexander Zverev at Wimbledon

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Dove Saipan Int'l gets underway

LEIGH GASES

Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024 men's singles champion Kai Chang leaps for a return during the Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament—Dove Saipan International 2024—yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Women's No. 3 Sih Yun Lin of Chinese Taipei serves during her game at the start of the Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament—Dove Saipan International 2024—yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament—the Dove Saipan International 2024—went underway yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium after a day's break from the recent Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024.

The men's singles champion of the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024, Chinese Taipei's Kai Cheng, labored through his opening match in this tourney.

He barely escaped Thailand's Varot Uraiwong as they went to three sets, 21-13, 11-21, 21-11.

In the last set though, Cheng recuperated and went on the offensive and tired Uraiwong out with back-to-back hard smashes that

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4 make it to singles finals in Fiji

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI National Junior Tennis Team's singles players Irin Chung, Siwoo Lee, Henry Choi, and Ian Chae made it to the finals of their respective divisions in the 2024 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship yesterday in Lautoka, Fiji

Chung beat Dora Moors of Samoa, 6-3, 6-2; Lee overcame teammate June Yu, 6-3, 6-2; Choi pummeled Tyrone Speed of Fiji, 6-2, 6-1; and Chae quelled Zaraan Singh 6-3, 6-1.

The NMI's Hoo Wang gave Solomon Islands' Alicia Kanegai a good challenge before losing 4-6, 7-6 13-15.

Then last Monday, the NMI's La Hunn Lam suffered a back injury in his match against Keanu Le Foc of Tahiti which ended his run in the tourney.

He led Le Foc, 3-1, and held two set points further down the stretch, but lost the first set tiebreaker, 7-9. In the second set he was forced to retire with a back injury at 0-3 and will miss the next couple of months at least.

In the tourney, according to coach Jeff Race, the greatest singles success belongs to Anne Lee who powered past Alexandria Amoa of American Samoa, 6-1, 6-0, to reach the semifinals after their game last Monday.

But in her matchup yesterday, Anne suffered a bitter disappointment having won and lost the first two sets 6-2 and 2-6 respectively. Anne led, 9-5, in the super tiebreaker but her lead evaporated as her opponent from Tuvalu, Alalilo Tepa, won the final six points to win, 11-9.

In the 12 boys division, they narrowly lost on Monday against Papua New Guinea. Michael Jeon snuck by his PNG opponent 6-2, 3-6, 10-4. Daniel "DK" Kang could've put PNG away but his guy slipped by him, 4-6, 6-3, 10-2. Then it was another close one in doubles which Jeon and Matt Zhu took to a super tie-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, NMI 12's girls team, Stella Choi, Selina Chi, and Emma Lang, poses with the Samoa team during the 2024 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship yesterday in Lautoka, Fiji.

Lamarc, K.J. atop SBL stats race

LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Sandlot's Lamarc Iguel in the batters box during a game in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

As of July 5, Lamarc Iguel and K.J. Villagomez are atop the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League statistical races.

Iguel, of Sandlot, has the highest batting percentage and is the current batting leader with a .588 from 10 hit of 17 at-bats. Tied for second is Blue Jays' Frankie Lieto and Royals' Marvin Ngeskebei with a .563 average each from nine connections in 16 plate appearances. Third is the Cardinals' Nokki Saralu at .520 from 13 hits out of 25 at-bats.

In other batting categories, Poland Masaharu leads the runs scored at 19; Brian Camacho is next at 18; Jerald Cabrera and Saralu are at 17 each; Iguel has 16; and Pat Tenorio Jr. collected 12.

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